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# A FEW DEVOTIONAL HELPS

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FOR

**Advent, Christmas, and other Seasons,  
until Lent.**

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# A FEW DEVOTIONAL HELPS

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## ADVENT SUNDAY.

**“Now it is high time to awake out of sleep.”  
—Rom. xiii. 11.**

**MANY** things call us to enter upon the season of Advent, with the earnest desire that it may be sanctified to us. One call is that of our soul's necessity; another is that of gratitude to **GOD** our **SAVIOUR**; a third is that of obedience to the practice of the Church.

But that which especially stirs us up, is the Incarnation of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, “**GOD** manifest in the flesh,” the source of all those blessings which we have already received, as well as of those we yet hope for.

Each Christmas, we trust, that our dear **SAVIOUR** will be more fully born anew in



our souls, by the increase of His grace, and by our conformity to His Life and Spirit. But in order to this we need a season of preparation. The business of the world, or the inattention of our own hearts to spiritual things, produces a sleep and forgetfulness. And if we are to be raised from this torpor, if we are to receive strength, so as to be free from sin, and to overcome our enemies, we must go to the source of grace.

This source or fountain is open to us at all times, but especially at those seasons when we recall the great mysteries of our Redemption.

In this, for instance, of Advent, which represents to us our Blessed Redeemer's coming to us, as He entered the Virgin's Womb, to bestow on us all the glorious effects of His Incarnation and Birth; He is at hand to pour upon us the riches of His grace, and this grace includes all that is necessary for our salvation and perfection.

It is pledged to us, moreover, as the Members of His Body. That grace which heals all wounds, and is the cure of all spiritual diseases; that grace which reforms and changes our hearts; that grace which stamps upon our souls the image of GOD in CHRIST, and fills us with His Divine SPIRIT; that grace by which we are not only called, but made the sons of GOD, and

joint-heirs with CHRIST; that grace is the blessing which is now offered to us all.

But to obtain such riches our hearts must be rightly disposed. The greater our faith and humility, the more abundant will be our supplies. Awake, then, my soul, at the call of thy GOD and SAVIOUR. Draw nigh to Him, and He will draw nigh to thee. Invite Him to enter in and dwell with thee, that He may make Himself Master of thy will, thy affections, and all thy powers.

O happy is he in whom this indwelling of GOD is established.

O LORD JESUS, let me be one of these happy ones. Come now, and take possession of that which is Thine own.

O Thou, Who art rich in mercy, and Who lovedst me when I was dead in sins, quicken me by Thy SPIRIT, and raise me up to that participation of Thy Divine Nature, whereby I shall see Thee now by faith, and hereafter face to face!

But, LORD, who am I that I should thus call upon Thee to come to me? Have I not done this before, and then basely turned away from Thee? O how many Advents have I trifled with—how many have come to me in vain! But spare me yet awhile. I tremble at my past sloth and indifference. But I purpose, by Thy gracious help, to be

more earnest this Advent, and to redeem my lost time, as far as I may.

O let it be to me a season of preparation, of deep and lasting penitence! O open my eyes that I may see! O wash me more and more in Thy precious Blood, that I may be clean!

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of GOD." But, LORD, who art Thou that I may hope thus to receive? The Father of the age to come—the Everlasting GOD—the Prince of Peace: and O that my heart could look up with love and gratitude proportioned to Thy condescension! O that it could go forth to meet Thee with glowing affection, and ready to offer itself freely and unreservedly to Thee! But at least I will endeavour to remove all impediments, and will neglect no means by which my heart and soul may be meet for the reception of my Blessed SAVIOUR and Deliverer, my LORD and my GOD.

O FATHER of mercies, and GOD of all comfort, behold I Thy creature, made after Thy Image, and redeemed by the Blood of Thy Well Beloved, appear before Thee, my Creator; by Whom and for Whom I was created; by Whose grace I have thus long lived; unto Whom henceforth, so long as Thou seest good, I would wish to live; for

Whom and in Whom I desire to die : I meekly adore Thee, Whom my soul desireth and strongly panteth for : to Thee I cry, Whom above all I love, O Thou, my Rest, my Hope, my Love, my Longing, my heart's only Good.

Most loving FATHER, though I be the least of all Thy children, yea, unworthy to be called Thy son, because I have not honoured Thee as my FATHER ; yet I come with great confidence, and cast myself into the Arms and Bosom of Thy most sweet Love and Mercy, grieving from my inmost soul, that I have ever forsaken Thee, my GOD, the Fountain of all good ; and I resolve with my whole heart and strength to return to Thee, and so to serve Thee, and cleave to Thee, that I may never more draw back from Thee, but may be faithful to Thee, even unto death, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

GOD, the FATHER, of Heaven ;

GOD, the SON ;

GOD, the HOLY GHOST ;

Word made Flesh ;

Word, full of grace and truth ;

SAVIOUR, CHRIST, and LORD ;

GOD with us, Emmanuel ;

} Have mercy on us.

Only-Begotten SON, Who art in the  
 Bosom of the FATHER;  
 Well-Beloved SON of GOD, in Whom  
 the FATHER is well pleased;  
 Wisdom, set up from all eternity;  
 Image of the Invisible GOD, Whose  
 Name is above every name;  
 Who upholdest all things by the  
 word of Thy power;  
 Beginning of the Creation of GOD;  
 First-born of every creature;  
 First-born among many brethren;  
 Heir of all things;  
 Star risen out of Jacob;  
 Lion of the tribe of Judah;  
 Rod of Jesse;  
 Son of David;  
 Son of Man;  
 JESUS of Nazareth;  
 Meek and humble of heart;  
 Shepherd and Bishop of our souls;  
 Who didst come to preach the Gos-  
 pel to the poor;  
 Light of the world;  
 Man of sorrows acquainted with grief;

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of GOD, That takest away the sins  
 of the world;

Have mercy on us.

Raise up, O LORD, Thy power, and  
 come; and what Thou hast promised in

Thy Church, do Thou mercifully work in her to the end of the world, Who livest and reignest with GOD the FATHER in the Unity of the HOLY SPIRIT, GOD for ever. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

Hark ! an awful voice is sounding  
“ CHRIST is nigh ! ” it seems to say ;  
“ Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day ! ”

Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise ;  
CHRIST, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo ! the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heaven ;  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all to be forgiven.

So, when next He comes with glory,  
Wrapping all the earth in fear,  
May He then as our Defender  
On the clouds of Heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
To the FATHER and the SON,  
With the Everlasting SPIRIT,  
While eternal ages run.

Amen.

PSALM XCIV. *Deus ultionum.*

O LORD GOD to Whom vengeance belongeth : Thou GOD to Whom vengeance belongeth, shew Thyself.

Arise, Thou Judge of the world : and reward the proud after their deservings.

LORD, how long shall the ungodly : how long shall the ungodly triumph ?

How long shall all wicked doers speak so disdainfully : and make such proud boasting ?

They smite down Thy people, O LORD : and trouble Thine heritage.

They murder the widow and the stranger : and put the fatherless to death.

And yet they say, Tush, the LORD shall not see : neither shall the GOD of Jacob regard it.

Take heed, ye unwise among the people : O ye fools, when will ye understand ?

He that planted the ear, shall not He hear : or He that made the eye, shall He not see ?

Or He that nutureth the heathen : it is He that teacheth man knowledge, shall not He punish ?

The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man : that they are but vain.

Blessed is the man whom Thou chasten-

est, O LORD : and teachest him in Thy law.

That Thou mayest give him patience in time of adversity : until the pit be digged up for the ungodly.

For the LORD will not fail His people : neither will He forsake His inheritance.

Until righteousness turn again unto judgment : all such as are true in heart shall follow it.

Who will rise up with me against the wicked : or who will take my part against the evil doers ?

If the LORD had not helped me : it had not failed but my soul had been put to silence.

But when I said, My foot hath slipped : Thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

In the multitude of the sorrows that I had, in my heart : Thy comforts have refreshed my soul.

Wilt Thou have anything to do with the stool of wickedness : which imagineth mischief as a law ?

They gather them together against the soul of the righteous : and condemn the innocent blood.

But the LORD is my refuge : and my GOD is the strength of my confidence.

He shall recompense them their wickedness, and destroy them in their own ma-



lice : yea, the LORD our GOD shall destroy them.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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### MONDAY IN ADVENT.

“Bring forth fruits meet for repentance.”—  
S. Matt. iii. 8.

The coming of CHRIST is intimately connected with repentance. “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” And the essence of repentance consists in the love of GOD, and the hatred of sin. Without these essentials GOD does not pardon sin, nor is the Priest able to absolve the sinner. But the union of these two things forms in us that godly sorrow for the past, and that resolution, by Divine grace, of not offending GOD any more, which makes the reality of repentance. Moreover the sorrow should be life-long, and the resolution should be renewed at least every day.

But to dispose myself to repentance, let me consider its necessity. Let me think what sin does in the soul. If it be a deadly sin, it separates the soul from GOD, and de-

prives it of His HOLY SPIRIT's presence. And if this be my case, have I truly repented before GOD? Have I bewailed my sin, confessed it, and done penance for it? But even lesser sins, though they do not banish the HOLY SPIRIT from us, yet they are obstacles to the infusion of grace, and grieve the HOLY SPIRIT. The least wilful fault, the slightest permitted irregularity of affection, every inordinate passion unsubdued, all these disorder and check our spiritual life. To repent at all then, I must endeavour by GOD's grace to correct these evils, and to remove whatever obstructs the incoming of His SPIRIT. I must ask GOD to change my heart, to heal my wounds, to save me from my sins, and to make me whole. I must ask Him to increase my hunger and thirst for His righteousness, and to deepen in me the sense of my vileness and corruption, that I may more thoroughly throw myself upon the merits and advocacy of our blessed SAVIOUR. Moreover to co-operate with GOD in the work of repentance, I must dig deep into my heart till compunction flows forth like a stream from it. I must endeavour to attain that broken spirit, that sacrifice of contrition, which is the very soul of repentance, and the condition of justification and salvation. But from this groundwork of repentance I

am to go on, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Within, I must strive to put off the old man and to put on the new; to get the victory over sensual thoughts and feelings, and to have the mind of CHRIST in meekness, humility, and all graces and virtues. Without, I must practise fasting and mortification, alms and works of mercy, so far as I am able. And especially I purpose to sanctify this holy time by retrenchments on Friday, and at other times, that so by these and other means my soul may be more fit for the exercise of heavenly prayer, and may have a greater relish for spiritual things, and the consolations of the HOLY GHOST.

O come before me, ye penitents of GOD—Peter weeping bitterly; Paul proclaiming himself the chief of sinners; David asking for more and more cleansing; Magdalene kissing and anointing the feet of her SAVIOUR; the prodigal arising and going to his Father—and let me learn with you to sigh and groan, to wash me more and more in the bath of cleansing, to purify my heart continually by application to the sacred laver of JESUS's Blood, to disentangle my affections from all that is earthly and carnal, and thus to "bring forth fruits meet for repentance" by doing all to the glory of GOD and the praise of the holy Name of JESUS.

With you also let me join in thanksgiving. Let me never cease to bless Him, Who has blessed and enriched me with His boundless favours and treasures. Let me mingle with aspirations of gratitude, vehement desires, and invite my GOD and SAVIOUR to come into my heart, and to produce in me the tempers and dispositions which will make me meet to receive Him worthily.

And O Thou Spirit of Love, Divine Comforter, feed me with the grace of love, that I may give to JESUS love for love, and that nothing may bring to my soul such joy as the remembrance of what JESUS has done for me, and what He is to me!

O most loving FATHER, I have sinned against Heaven and before Thee! O that I had never offended Thee, my GOD and my all! but at least accept this my burning desire and wish from my inmost heart. While it is still the time of pity, look Thou upon me and be merciful unto me. Thou knowest that I desire to love Thee more than all that claims my love. Thou knowest that I trust in Thee, and offer Thee my heart, with the earnest prayer that it may be broken and contrite before Thee. Be pleased, O LORD, to accept it as a burnt sacrifice: I give it all to Thee, and with it I give Thee all my members, all I have, and all I am. O bring my soul out of

prison, that I may praise Thy Name! O let me at least begin in this vale of tears to offer with all my soul to Thy Divine Majesty the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, to take the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the LORD, that hereafter I may praise Thee for ever, through JESUS CHRIST, Thy SON, our LORD. Amen.

Now is the season of grace. The Judge is at the door; let us not be gloomy: but let us bring to Him tears, and contrition, and alms-deeds, crying, we have sinned beyond the number of the sands of the sea; but forgive all, Redeemer of all, that we also may possess the immortal crown.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

O GOD, Who didst draw Lot from  
the midst of sinners;

Who, softened by the prayers of  
Moses, didst forgive the sins of Thy  
backsliding people;

Who didst pardon the sin of David,  
after his confession and repentance;

Who didst command Thy priests to  
weep and pray, and offer sacrifice for  
the people;

Who didst fast forty days and forty  
nights;

Have mercy on us.

Who didst prevent with Thy grace,  
Matthew, sitting at the receipt of cus-  
tom ;

Who didst bear witness that the pub-  
lican, humbly striking his breast, was  
justified ;

Who didst deliver the paralytic man  
from his infirmity, when Thou hadst  
forgiven his sins ;

Who, by the example of the pro-  
digal son, didst offer to sinners the  
hope of pardon ;

Who didst make known to the  
woman of Samaria the Fountain of  
Living Water ;

Have mercy on us.

LAMB of GOD, that takest away the sins  
of the world ;

Have mercy on us.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM XCII. *Bonum est confiteri.*

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the  
LORD : and to sing praises unto Thy Name,  
O most Highest ;

To tell of Thy loving-kindness early in  
the morning : and of Thy truth in the  
night-season.

Upon an instrument of ten strings, and  
upon the lute : upon a loud instrument, and  
upon the harp.

For Thou, LORD, hast made me glad through Thy works : and I will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hands.

O LORD, how glorious are Thy works : Thy thoughts are very deep.

An unwise man doth not well consider this : and a fool doth not understand it.

When the ungodly are green as the grass, and when all the workers of wickedness do flourish : then shall they be destroyed for ever ; but Thou, O LORD, art the most Highest for evermore.

For lo, Thine enemies, O LORD, lo, Thine enemies shall perish : and all the workers of wickedness shall be destroyed.

But mine horn shall be exalted like the horn of an unicorn : for I am anointed with fresh oil.

Mine eye also shall see his lust of mine enemies : and mine ear shall hear his desire of the wicked that rise up against me.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm-tree : and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Libanus.

Such as are planted in the house of the LORD : shall flourish in the courts of the house of our GOD.

They also shall bring forth more fruit in their age : and shall be fat and well-liking.

That they may show how true the LORD

my strength is : and that there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## TUESDAY IN ADVENT.

“Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning.”—S. Luke xii. 35.

That fervent love which moves the soul to a closer union with her Beloved, her GOD and Redeemer, sends her to Him for this end in meditation, in the converse of prayer, and in the blessed Sacrament of His love, that she may be made one with Him, may live with Him, and be enriched with His gifts and graces. Not all these means, however,—not even the Sacramental union of the loving soul with her Spouse and LORD,—is enough to satiate her love. In this Holy Sacrament she has indeed her strength and support, but she sees Him only by faith, and under a veil. The frequency, therefore, of this Communion, if it is rightly received, increases her longing for a more perfect union with her GOD, that she



may see Him face to face, and may behold His glory.

And what can be more natural than for a loving bride to desire the day of espousal? "The SPIRIT and the Bride say, Come!" The whole Church says, "Come!" And each faithful soul, animated by the HOLY SPIRIT, says, "Come!"

But in expectation of this coming, we must be on the alert, with our "loins girded," and our "lights burning." Let me bind around me, then, the girdle of chastity and temperance. Let my will, and mind, and affections be filled with the True Light. Let me "watch" by the heart, by faith, by love, by good works. But alas! even if the spirit be willing, the flesh is weak. And I have too often fallen from this vigilance by my own heaviness and sloth. O that I had been more faithful to my watch, and had not slumbered, as I have done, over my Christian duties! How many evil habits might I have been delivered from! How many virtues and graces might I have obtained!

But my soul has slept, and the enemies of my peace have been watchful, and have gained an advantage over me. But, LORD, Thou hast made me sensible of my loss; my heart waketh; my soul is athirst for Thee, O when wilt Thou come unto me? When

wilt Thou deliver me from carelessness and indifference? When shall I be fully on the watch?

Make me, LORD, to expect Thy coming with vigilance and attention, that I may receive Thee with joy, and not be taken un-awares!

Thou that sittest upon the Cherubim, stir up Thy strength, and come and help me.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

GOD, Who hast pity on all men, and puttest away the sins of all those who truly repent;

Have mercy on us.

Who wouldest have mercy and not sacrifice;

Have mercy on us.

Who, when we repent, rememberest our sins no more;

Have mercy on us.

GOD, most merciful and patient, tender, and full of loving-kindness, notwithstanding all our sins,

Have mercy on us.

By Thy first Coming in lowliness;

By Thy Second Coming to judge the world;

Have mercy on us.

LAMB of GOD, That takest away the sins of the world ;

Have mercy on us.

Stir up, O LORD, our hearts to prepare the way of Thy Only-Begotten; that we may be found worthy to serve Thee with purified hearts, through His Coming, Who, with Thee and the HOLY GHOST liveth and reigneth, One GOD.

Remember Thy tender mercies, O LORD, and Thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old; and stretch forth Thy Right Hand to Thy creature, striving to come to Thee. Help Thou the weakness of him that can do nothing without Thee; Draw him unto Thee, for Thou knowest that he cannot come, unless Thou, FATHER, draw him with Thy love and HOLY SPIRIT. Make me, Thy servant, willing to please Thee. Give me those holy gifts, by which alone I can be acceptable to Thee. Claim me wholly for Thine own, who owe Thee all that I am. Let the brightness of Thy Presence drive away from me the evil spirits of darkness. Tear asunder my chains, and lead me into Thy light and liberty, that my soul may magnify Thy Name, and that I may tell forth the praises of Thy redeeming mercy; through JESUS CHRIST our SAVIOUR. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM LXXVI. *Notus in Judæa.*

In Jewry is GOD known : His Name is great in Israel.

At Salem is His tabernacle : and His dwelling in Sion.

There brake He the arrows of the bow : the shield, the sword, and the battle.

Thou art of more honour and might : than the hills of the robbers.

The proud are robbed, they have slept their sleep : and all the men whose hands were mighty have found nothing.

At Thy rebuke, O GOD of Jacob : both the chariot and horse are fallen.

Thou, even Thou art to be feared : and who may stand in Thy sight when Thou art angry ?

Thou didst cause Thy judgment to be heard from heaven : the earth trembled, and was still.

When GOD arose to judgment, and to help all the meek upon earth.

The fierceness of men shall turn to Thy praise : and the fierceness of them shalt Thou refrain.

Promise unto the LORD your GOD, and keep it, all ye that are round about Him : bring presents unto Him that ought to be feared.

He shall refrain the spirit of princes :

and is wonderful among the kings of the earth.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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### WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT.

“Be strong, and He shall establish your heart : all ye that put your trust in the LORD.”  
—Ps. xxxi. 27.

“Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,” is the Apostolic exhortation. And what is it that gives this renovated strength to the weak and the weary ? What is it that lifts up their heart and establishes it ? It is the Divine grace of hope. Hope infused through the Sacraments into the soul, quickened continually by the indwelling HOLY SPIRIT, and nourished by prayer. For this Holy Scripture was written, that “through patience and comfort of the Scriptures we might have hope.” The true believer lives in hope, and rejoices in hope; for to him “the life of this mortal life is in the hope of immortal life.” And he “rejoices in hope”

because he is as sure of the things which GOD has promised, as if he already possessed them. But he rejoices with trembling, inasmuch as he remembers that while GOD's Word cannot be broken, yet his faith may fail, unless by Divine grace he perseveres to the end.

But let me think of the ways in which hope may affect me. Am I troubled in circumstances? Have I lost temporal blessings? Then for that very reason will I cling closer to GOD. I will believe that He has allowed creatures to fail me, that I may put my whole trust in Him alone.

Have I sinned often and grievously? Yet when I read and hear GOD's promise of pardon to the sinner that turns to Him, can I doubt the Word of GOD?—that Word which is strengthened by an oath, and sealed with the precious Blood of JESUS. O blessed impossibility for GOD to lie, or His promise to fail! I will remind Him of His promise; I will plead with Him by the Sacrifice of JESUS, and “though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.” Breathe forth, O my sinful soul, thy sighs of hope to JESUS; do not despond; lift up thine eyes to Him; breathe forth thy confidence to Him, and He will lead thee to the haven. He will shed upon thee healing from His Wounds, and will show thee a rock which is

higher than thou art, and from which no storm shall shake thee, and on which no water shall overwhelm thee.

O Thou that art the Hope of all the ends of the earth, and of them that remain in the broad sea, be Thou my hope.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

GOD, Who didst bring salvation to the house of Zaccheus, repenting of his sins and restoring fourfold ;

Who didst exercise Thy mercy in behalf of the woman taken in adultery ;

Who didst receive publicans and sinners, and didst eat with them ;

Who didst forgive Magdalene her many sins, because she loved much ;

Who, looking tenderly on Peter who denied Thee, didst bring him to compunction and tears ;

Who didst promise paradise to the penitent thief ;

Have mercy on us.

LAMB of GOD, that takest away the sins of the world ;

Have mercy on us.

My most gracious and beloved SAVIOUR, Thou hast taught me to pray "Thy kingdom come." Thus, then, do I pray to Thee : May Thy kingdom come into my

soul, that Thou mayest possess it entirely, and it possess Thee, the only true and sovereign Good,

Depart from my heart, all ye earthly affections, ye worldly desires, and give place to my GOD, Who comes to take possession of me. Yes, LORD, take possession of me, for Thou art my Redeemer, my Love, my GOD, my All.

O merciful and pitiful FATHER, Thou art ready to be found of them that seek Thee, and I shall not fail to find the fountain of mercy with Thee. Thou hast conferred great things upon me, and this emboldens me to ask for more. Behold, I offer to Thy compassion one blind, for Thee to enlighten; sick, for Thee to make whole; bound by many debts, for Thee to loosen; naked and poor, for Thee to enrich: and I beseech Thee, enlighten me with Thy most healthful faith; gladden and strengthen me with Thy most joyous and certain hope; quicken me with Thy most strong and righteous love; and bring me to Thy glory; for Thy dear SON's sake. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM X. *Ut quid, Domine?*

Why standest Thou so far off, O LORD: and hidest Thy face in the needful time of trouble?



The ungodly for his own lust doth persecute the poor : let them be taken in the crafty wiliness that they have imagined.

For the ungodly hath made boast of his own heart's desire : and speaketh good of the covetous, whom GOD abhorreth.

The ungodly is so proud, that he careth not for GOD : neither is GOD in all his thoughts.

His ways are always grievous : Thy judgments are far above out of his sight, and therefore defieth he all his enemies.

For he hath said in his heart, Tush, I shall never be cast down : there shall no harm happen unto me.

His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and fraud : under his tongue is ungodliness and vanity.

He sitteth lurking in the thievish corners of the streets : and privily in his lurking dens doth he murder the innocent ; his eyes are set against the poor.

For he lieth waiting secretly, even as a lion lurketh he in his den : that he may ravish the poor.

He doth ravish the poor : when he getteth him into his net.

He falleth down, and humbleth himself : that the congregation of the poor may fall into the hands of his captains.

He hath said in his heart, Tush, GOD

hath forgotten : He hideth away His face,  
and He will never see it.

Arise, O LORD GOD, and lift up Thine  
hand : forget not the poor.

Wherefore should the wicked blaspheme  
GOD : while he doth say in his heart, Tush,  
Thou GOD carest not for it.

Surely Thou hast seen it : for Thou be-  
holdest ungodliness and wrong.

That Thou mayest take the matter into  
Thine hand : the poor committeth himself  
unto Thee ; for Thou art the helper of the  
friendless.

Break Thou the power of the ungodly and  
malicious : take away his ungodliness, and  
Thou shalt find none.

The LORD is King for ever and ever :  
and the heathen are perished out of the  
land.

LORD, Thou hast heard the desire of the  
poor : Thou preparest their heart, and Thine  
ear hearkeneth thereto ;

To help the fatherless and poor unto their  
right : that the man of the earth be no more  
exalted against them.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## THURSDAY IN ADVENT.

“It is appointed unto men once to die.”—  
Heb. ix. 27.

The future course of each one's life is uncertain; but one thing and one alone is perfectly certain for each—our death. At this very moment, the hour of death for each one of us is appointed in the counsels of GOD. Every day that we have lived, this very day now passing, is a gift of GOD's Grace; it is in His Hand to lengthen or shorten our term of life as He will. Wilt not thou, O my soul, strive that each day shall be consecrated to His service? that each day may find thee more ready to die? Length of days is surely a blessing, if we use it to the service of GOD. “The deceitful men shall not live out half their days,” saith holy David; yet sometimes our loving FATHER shortens this life for those after His own heart, as a reward and blessing. Of some it is written that, having “pleased GOD, and being beloved of Him,” they were “made perfect in a short time, and fulfilled a long time: for his soul pleased the LORD, therefore hastened He to take him away from among the wicked.”

The second property of Death is, that its time, place, and manner is hidden from us, and GOD alone knows how and when it will come to us. "As a thief in the night," saith our Blessed LORD, so shall the hour of our summons steal upon us. And therefore did He say unto all His followers, "Watch." Watch, not in palsied fear, as those who dread some uncertain, overwhelming danger; but watch rather as they who look to be summoned to the bosom of their loved One, and who would fain have made ready all their concerns, so as to rise up promptly and gladly when at length they are called and go forth. O my soul, gird thee with the mortification of all thy vices and passions, and take in thy hands the burning torches of holiness and charity; and thus watch ever for the coming of CHRIST: for He will come when thou art least thinking thereof: and that hour in which thou art most forgetful shall peradventure be the one which He has appointed. Bethink thee how it will be with thee if He come and find thee unready?

Another property of Death is, that it cometh but *once*. Once the struggle over—once Satan defeated—once GOD's angels triumphing over the soul set free from sin and peril—once Jordan's cold waters passed—once a safe shelter found in Abra-

ham's bosom—once the golden gates open—once the victory over the grave won—and then we shall never again know doubt, or fear, or pain. But also *once* to the impenitent and hardened: for him once Satan triumphs, GOD's holy angels mourn, and the golden gates close: for "where the tree falleth, there it must lie."

O my soul, make ready while it is yet time; consider, mourn for, and confess thy sins now, so that when thine hour cometh, thou mayest be found ready. If the house of thine heart be not put in order, how wilt thou *then* long for one little hour of time, and yet long in vain. Send thy goods before thee to that unknown land, that thou be not all unfurnished in thy need. Store up thy treasure of time, wealth, affections, talents, whatsoever they be, there, where nothing can change or damage it, and where tenfold interest is ever laid to all thou hast, through the merits of Thy SAVIOUR and Master.

O Eternal LORD and GOD, in Whose Hands are the souls of the just, and under Whose loving care and protection the anguish of death cannot reach them; take from my soul all inordinate love of the things of this life; that I may be ready to rise up and meet Thy call whenever it please Thee to summon me. Teach me how to die

daily to all earthly delights and longings. Grant me ever to have my soul in my hand, and O do Thou receive her into Thy loving Hands, whence no power of the devil can ever wrest her. Help me so to benefit by the holy life and death of Thy most dear SON JESUS CHRIST, that in the hour of my death I may be received into His pierced Hands, and borne by them to the repose of His glory, Who with Thee and the HOLY GHOST liveth and reigneth One GOD, world without end. Amen.

Receive, O LORD, Thy servant into the place of Salvation, of which I have no hope save in Thy mercy. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant from all the dangers of hell, and from all tribulations. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Enoch and Elias from the death common to all men. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Noah from the flood. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Job from all his sufferings. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant,

as Thou didst deliver Isaac from being sacrificed by the hand of his father. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Lot from the flames of Sodom. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Moses from the hand of the Egyptians. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Daniel from the lions' den. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver the Three Children from the burning fiery furnace. Amen.

Deliver, O LORD, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Peter and Paul out of prison. Amen.

Vouchsafe, O LORD, to deliver the soul of Thy servant, and make it to rejoice with Thee in the delights of Heaven for ever. Amen.

O GOD, Who in condemning us to death hast concealed from us the moment of its occurrence; Grant, that spending all the days of my life in holiness and righteousness, I may have the happiness to breathe my last in Thy love; through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM LXXVII. *Voce mea.*

I will cry unto GOD with my voice : even unto GOD will I cry with my voice, and He shall hearken unto me.

In the time of my trouble I sought the LORD : my sore ran, and ceased not in the night season ; my soul refused comfort.

When I am in heaviness, I will think upon GOD : when my heart is vexed, I will complain.

Thou holdest mine eyes waking : I am so feeble, that I cannot speak.

I have considered the days of old : and the years that are past.

I call to remembrance my song : and in the night I commune with mine own heart, and search out my spirit.

Will the LORD absent Himself for ever : and will He be no more intreated ?

Is His mercy clean gone for ever : and is His promise come utterly to an end for evermore ?

Hath GOD forgotten to be gracious : and will He shut up His loving-kindness in displeasure ?

And I said, it is mine own infirmity : but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most Highest.

I will remember the works of the LORD : and call to mind Thy wonders of old time.



I will think also of all Thy works : and my talking shall be of Thy doings.

Thy way, O GOD, is holy : who is so great a God as our GOD ?

Thou art the GOD that doest wonders : and hast declared Thy power among the people.

Thou hast mightily delivered Thy people : even the sons of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw Thee, O GOD, the waters saw Thee and were afraid : the depths also were troubled.

The clouds poured out water, the air thundered : and Thine arrows went abroad.

The voice of Thy thunder was heard round about : the lightnings shone upon the ground ; the earth was moved, and shook withal.

Thy way is in the sea, and Thy paths in the great waters : and Thy footsteps are not known.

Thou leddest Thy people like sheep : by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## FRIDAY IN ADVENT.

“And after this the judgment.”—Heb. ix. 27.

Forasmuch as to every one living it is appointed once to die, so shall every one come to judgment,—to that inevitable hour when the secrets of all hearts shall be made bare, and our sentence passed for ever. The Prophet Daniel was permitted to see CHRIST on His seat of judgment, which appeared as a throne of fire, to set forth the terribleness of His wrath against the wicked : and S. John also saw Him on a most pure white throne, to represent His infinite wisdom and purity, His clemency and mercy. Before this throne, and before that most Holy and Righteous Judge, must my soul appear,—Satan at my side seeking to have me condemned, and my guardian angel on the other side contending against him, even as we read in the Prophet Zechariah. How will it be with me, *then* ?

O most just Judge and merciful FATHER, I confess that I am through my sins unworthy and altogether unclean ; but O LORD, do Thou wash me and whiten me with the living water of Thy grace, and grant that when I come to stand before Thy

great white throne, the devil may have no power over me, but Thy Angel may protect me, Thy mercy receive me, and Thy justice crown me. Amen.

From that awful throne will come forth my sentence. If it be a sentence of condemnation—"Depart from Me"—then immediately will the miserable soul be forsaken of GOD; the good Angels can no longer watch over it, but sorrowfully leave it, saying, as of Babylon, "We would have healed her, but she is not healed; forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country. . . . Thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness."

O Judge most just and holy, yet most loving and pitiful, have mercy on me; and when Thou comest to judgment, cast me not forth into outer darkness! Teach me so to judge myself now, that I be not condemned in that awful day.

But if the sentence be that blessed and joyful one, "Enter thou into the joy of thy LORD," then behold Satan fly away defeated, and the Angels making haste triumphantly to carry the happy soul into heaven, even as they bare Lazarus into Abraham's bosom. O what joy shall the soul have in that her perfect blessedness! That which was before full of sorrows, humbled with contempt, and troubled with

fears, in a moment shall see herself far otherwise; all her pain turned into glory, and her mourning into rejoicing; in the company of Angels, in a place of repose, and fulfilled for ever with the vision of her GOD. Each one of us shall be judged as we die, but further there will be the final judgment, when all men shall rise again and come from every quarter to stand before the Judge in their bodies, and all nations and all people shall be gathered together. In that day all shall fear, when they see so awful a sight; but the holy and good shall "lift up their heads, because their redemption draweth near;" while the wicked, who were afraid even where no fear was, shall tremble and be very greatly terrified. Then a great and terrible fire shall burn up the earth; and therefore, O my soul, is there good reason why thou shouldest learn not to care for the fashion of this world which passeth away, and which at last shall be burned up even as chaff in the flames. Remember then, call frequently to mind, how thou shalt be summoned by that inevitable trumpet of the Archangel, and prepare thyself for it. Obey *now* the voice of Almighty GOD, Who saith to thee, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and CHRIST shall give thee light." Consider that whereas *now*, CHRIST thy LORD

comes into thy heart in gentleness and meekness, *then* He will come terrible in judgment. O my SAVIOUR, very just is it that Thy Second Coming should discover that glory which at Thy First Coming Thou didst conceal. Grant me, O LORD, to imitate Thy humility in Thy First Coming, that I may be permitted to see Thy glory when Thou shalt come again to judge the world.

O most sweet JESUS, by all those Thy precious Wounds, which shall be seen of all men when Thou comest to judgment, I beseech Thee give me pardon and peace. Give me wings like a dove, to fly away from the dangers and temptations of the world, and hide me, ever mourning for my sins, in the shadow of that Cross, which Thou didst bear for me: and so grant me in the day of judgment, boldly to look upon Thy Cross and Thy Wounds, by which my salvation cometh, and through them admit me to Thy glory. Amen.

O my soul, choose ever in this life a low place among men, that at the Day of Judgment CHRIST may give thee a high place among the Angels. Make no account of the right hand or left hand that thou hast in this world, but of that which thou shalt have in the tribunal of CHRIST, and endeavour to live with such purity and holiness that

He may place thee for ever on His right Hand.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

GOD of all goodness, Who wilt not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live ;

Who pardonedst not the Angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell for all eternity ;

Who, when Adam fell, didst call him to confession and repentance for his sin ;

Who didst preserve Noah from the flood, and from the lot of the ungodly, by saving him in the ark ;

Who didst come into the world to save sinners ;

Who, when Thou wouldest redeem the world, didst send us Thy messenger, John Baptist, the preacher of repentance ;

Who lovest all Thy creatures, and hatest nothing that Thou hast made ;

Who givest to sinners both time and place for repentance ;

Who didst come to seek and to save that which was lost ;

Have mercy on us.

That thou wouldest vouchsafe to  
lead us to a true repentance;

That we may judge ourselves, and  
so escape Thy judgment;

That we may bring forth in due time  
worthy fruits of repentance;

That, denying ungodliness and  
worldly desires, we may live soberly,  
justly, and godly;

That sin may not reign in our mortal  
body;

That we love not the world, neither  
the things of the world;

That we may work out our salvation  
with fear and trembling;

We beseech Thee, hear us.

LAMB of GOD, Who takest away the sins  
of the world;

Spare us, O LORD.

In the hour of death;

Spare us, O LORD.

In the Day of Judgment;

Spare us, O LORD.

O most gracious and most merciful GOD,  
look with compassion on the frailty of our  
mortal nature, and sustain our endeavours  
by Thy grace, that through Thy boundless  
mercy we may obtain the pardon of all our  
sins, may persevere constantly in Thy ser-  
vice, and in the end attain unto everlasting

life; through JESUS CHRIST our LORD.  
Amen.

Succour us, O Blessed JESUS, in that most fearful Day of Judgment, and give us in this transitory life all things necessary for the health of our souls and bodies; and grant that this life ended, we may live and rejoice with Thee everlastingly. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CXVIII. *Confitemini Domino.*

O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is gracious : because His mercy endureth for ever.

Let Israel now confess, that He is gracious : and that His mercy endureth for ever.

Let the house of Aaron now confess : that His mercy endureth for ever.

Yea, let them now that fear the LORD confess : that His mercy endureth for ever.

I called upon the LORD in trouble : and the LORD heard me at large.

The LORD is on my side : I will not fear what man doeth unto me.

The LORD taketh my part with them that help me : therefore shall I see my desire upon mine enemies.

It is better to trust in the LORD : than to put any confidence in man.



It is better to trust in the LORD : than to put any confidence in princes.

All nations compassed me round about : but in the Name of the LORD will I destroy them.

They kept me in on every side, they kept me in, I say, on every side : but in the Name of the LORD will I destroy them.

They came about me like bees, and are extinct even as the fire among the thorns : for in the Name of the LORD I will destroy them.

Thou hast thrust sore at me, that I might fall : but the LORD was my help.

The LORD is my strength, and my song : and is become my salvation.

The voice of joy and health is in the dwellings of the righteous : the right Hand of the LORD bringeth mighty things to pass.

The right Hand of the LORD hath the pre-eminence : the right Hand of the LORD bringeth mighty things to pass.

I shall not die, but live : and declare the works of the LORD.

The LORD hath chastened and corrected me : but He hath not given me over unto death.

Open me the gates of righteousness : that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the LORD.

**This is the gate of the LORD : the righteous shall enter into it.**

**I will thank Thee, for Thou hast heard me : and art become my salvation.**

**The same stone which the builders refused : is become the Head-stone in the corner.**

**This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.**

**This is the day which the LORD hath made : we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Help me now, O LORD : O LORD, send us now prosperity.**

**Blessed be He that cometh in the Name of the LORD : we have wished you good luck, ye that are of the house of the LORD.**

**GOD is the LORD Who hath shewed us light : bind the sacrifice with cords, yea, even unto the horns of the altar.**

**Thou art my GOD, and I will thank Thee : Thou art my GOD, and I will praise Thee.**

**O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is gracious : and His mercy endureth for ever.**

**Glory be to the FATHER, &c.**

**As it was in the beginning, &c.**

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## SATURDAY IN ADVENT.

"An angel came down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand . . . . And I saw a new Heaven and a new earth."—Rev. xx. 1 ; xxi. 1.

"One day in Thy courts is better than a thousand;" and what shall it be to dwell for ever therein! "Come, eat, and drink, and be filled, My beloved," saith the King of Heaven. "This feast of Mine shall never be ended, there shall come no sorrow after it." O life of lives, surpassing all life! O life blessed for evermore! O the greatness and goodness of GOD, Who hath prepared such heavenly mansions and such glorious things for the humble and lowly of heart who serve Him. My soul thirsteth after Thee, my GOD: I will behold Thy Face in righteousness, for in Thy Presence is fulness of joy, and at Thy Right Hand there are pleasures for evermore. Whatsoever I can wish for is present with Thee; whatsoever can be desired is in Thee in abundance; Thou shalt make me drink of the rivers of Thy pleasures; for with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy Light I shall see light. What will it be to

see Thee in Thyself, and Thee in me, and myself in Thee, living in everlasting felicity, and enjoying Thy beatific Vision for evermore? I will therefore trust in Thee, my LORD GOD, for ever; for in the LORD JEHOVAH there is everlasting happiness, and joy without end.

O my soul, listen with all thy powers for the most sweet Voice of CHRIST, calling thee to imitate His life, that thou mayest at length hear Him call thee to receive thy crown in Heaven.

So great is the joy of the celestial paradise, that it wholly fills and embraces the blessed souls which enter into Heaven, as into an immense sea of pleasure and delight. The joys of earth enter into our hearts, but fill them not, because the capacity of man's heart is greater than they can satisfy; but the joys of Heaven prepared for the blessed, enter into them, and fill and overflow them in all parts. Let us, therefore, rejoice, unto whom so great blessings are promised; let us rejoice that Heaven was made for us, and let this hope banish all sadness from our hearts; let those grieve and lament who have no hope of Heaven, not those unto whom CHRIST hath promised the blessedness of His Glory.

O FATHER of Light, grant me the light of Thy Glory, that one day I may clearly

see that which I now believe by the light of Faith. O Eternal Word, bestow Thyself upon me, that I may possess in Heaven that which I see by faith upon earth. O HOLY GHOST, make me partaker of Thine infinite Beauty, to the end that I may one day enjoy that which Thou hast taught me to long after. LORD, I am wholly Thine, be Thou wholly mine; Thou art my eternity; Thou art my salvation and hope; when shall I see the happy day in which I may appear in Thy heavenly mansion, to eat and drink in Thy kingdom, and behold Thy Majesty for ever? O Thou bright Star of the East, let Thy eternal Light shine into my soul and disperse all earthly mists. Grant, LORD, that my hopes being all stored up with Thee, I may not seek to rest in the passing joys of this life, even as the dove of the Deluge could not rest upon the waters. O my GOD, Thou art my only Hope—to Thee be glory, honour, and thanksgiving, now and for ever. Amen.

But my soul, neither must thou forget that if through thy guiltiness, thou dost lose that Heaven, which thy SAVIOUR died to win for thee, thou must then suffer for ever in hell. Therefore cast thyself low before thy GOD, Whom thou hast so often offended, and Who is awful in His Justice, as well as Loving and Merciful, and say,

O Eternal King, Who preparedst Heaven and Hell, and Who art a FATHER of mercy, willing rather to pardon Thy straying sheep, than to punish them; Visit me with Thy Divine inspiration that I may ever be mindful that there is a Hell for the impenitent as well as a Heaven for the redeemed, and do Thou give me strength so to pass through this life, and so truly to repent that I may escape Hell, and be admitted into Heaven. Change Thou my heart, and when Thou comest to Judgment, O condemn me not. Let Thy mercy pardon me now, that Thy justice condemn me not in that Day.

I confess, O my GOD, that I am that miserable sinner who hath done countless wickednesses, for which I deserve not to see Thy Glory, nor to be admitted into the company of those who enjoy it. I am heartily sorry and bewail my sins and shortcomings: pardon them, O LORD, through Thy Mercy, that the work of Thy Hands be not destroyed, nor fail in attaining that end for which it was created. Let me not be cast into Hell, to be fuel for that never-ending fire! and for ever to blaspheme Thy Name, since "who shall give Thee thanks in the pit?" Thou, O LORD, Who didst deliver the Three Children out of the fiery furnace, deliver Thou me from the flames of Hell;

place me in the light and brightness of Thy Love. From everlasting death, Good LORD, deliver Thy child and servant. Amen.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

GOD, of Whom, by Whom, and in Whom are all things;

GOD, in Whom we live, and move, and are;

Who alone hast immortality, and dwellest in Light inaccessible;

Whose Majesty filleth the whole earth;

Whom Heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain;

Who openest Thy Hand, and fillest with blessing every living creature;

Who hast power to cast body and soul into Hell;

Whose Eyes are brighter than the sun, beholding all the ways of men;

Who searchest the heart and triest the reins;

Whose judgments are incomprehensible, and Whose ways are unsearchable;

Merciful and Patient, of much compassion and true;

King of kings, and LORD of lords;

King of ages, Immortal and Invisible;

Have mercy upon us.

Be merciful and spare us, O LORD :

From the worm that never dieth, and  
the fire that shall never be extinguished,

O LORD, deliver us.

From being deprived of the sight and enjoyment of Thee ;

Through Thy Almighty power and infinite wisdom ;

Through Thy incomprehensible Majesty and eternal Glory ;

O LORD, deliver us.

And grant, that we may present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee ;

Hear us, O LORD.

And bring us to the kingdom which Thou hast prepared for us from the foundation of the world ;

Hear us, O LORD.

Our FATHER, &c.

### PSALM LXXIII. *Quam bonus Israel.*

Truly GOD is loving unto Israel : even unto such as are of a clean heart.

Nevertheless, my feet were almost gone : my treadings had well-nigh slipped.

And why ? I was grieved at the wicked : I do also see the ungodly in such prosperity.



For they are in no peril of death : but are lusty and strong.

They come in no misfortune like other folk : neither are they plagued like other men.

And this is the cause that they are so holden with pride : and overwhelmed with cruelty.

Their eyes swell with fatness : and they do even what they list.

They corrupt other, and speak of wicked blasphemy : their talking is against the Most High.

For they stretch forth their mouth unto the heaven : and their tongue goeth through the world.

Therefore fall the people unto them : and thereout suck they no small advantage.

Tush, say they, how should GOD perceive it : is there knowledge in the Most High ?

Lo, these are the ungodly, these prosper in the world, and these have riches in possession : and I said, Then have I cleansed my heart in vain, and washed mine hands in innocency.

All the day long have I been punished : and chastened every morning.

Yea, and I had almost said even as they : but lo, then I should have condemned the generation of Thy children.

Then thought I to understand this : but it was too hard for me.

Until I went into the sanctuary of GOD : then understood I the end of these men.

Namely, how Thou dost set them in slippery places : and castest them down, and destroyest them.

O how suddenly do they consume : perish and come to a fearful end.

Yea even like as a dream when one awaketh : so shalt Thou make their image to vanish out of the city.

Thus my heart was grieved : and it went even through my reins.

So foolish was I, and ignorant : even as it were a beast before Thee.

Nevertheless I am always by Thee : for Thou hast holden me by Thy Right hand.

Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel : and after that receive me with glory.

Whom have I in Heaven but Thee : and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of Thee.

My flesh and my heart faileth : but GOD is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

For lo, they that forsake Thee shall perish : Thou hast destroyed all them that commit fornication against Thee.

But it is good for me to hold me fast by GOD, to put my trust in the LORD GOD :

and to speak of all Thy works in the gates of the daughter of Sion.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

“Then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”—S. Luke xxi. 27.

The Incarnation of our Blessed LORD has to do with us in time and in eternity. By it we are incorporated and knit together with CHRIST. By it we are made partakers of the Divine nature. It is, in short, the exhaustless treasury out of which all our wants are supplied. For by His Charity, Piety, Obedience, Humility, Poverty, Gentleness, Patience, and all other perfect virtues, our defects and imperfections are supplied. His Labours, Fastings, Watchings, Weariness, and everything that He suffered from the first moment of His Conception, until He gave up the ghost; all these, but especially the Anguish, Griefs, and Torments of His Passion; the Blood He poured

out; the Wounds He received; the Death He endured in our stead: all these are our treasure, our riches, in which we repose our only hope, and which we offer to the FATHER in satisfaction of all our debts. But beyond all this, it is through the Incarnation that we have a mediating Judge. The GOD-Man, our Elder-Brother, Who has been tempted, and touched with our infirmities, will judge us at the Great Day. For the FATHER "hath given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man."

Great cause have I, then, in common with all my Christian brethren, to honour the Incarnation. If I say now under the burden of my sin, Who shall deliver me? there is no other that can do it but this Almighty SAVIOUR by His all-saving grace. If I say, Who shall preserve me from the wrath to come? it is the Son of Man, Who will come "with power and great glory." From the depth, then, of my misery, I look up to the height of His infinite mercy. And, O my soul! if thou hast learnt to set a great value upon the Incarnation of thy LORD, thou wilt set no bounds to thy desire to be saved by Him, to be one with Him, and to dwell with Him. But I must strive to animate my whole heart with a living devotion to my SAVIOUR

and Redeemer; and to this end I will sometimes think of His offices of Mediator, Advocate, High Priest, Judge, and King. At other times I will think of my extreme weakness, blindness, and misery, unless I am "found in Him." Then I will remember that to honour Him aright is the work rather of the heart, than the voice; that I must do it in spirit and in truth; and that whatever outward praises I offer Him, should be the fruit of interior love and gratitude.

O Thou Who art yet to come in Thy glorious majesty, come now in Thy quickening grace, and so plant Thy holy love and fear in my heart, that it shall own no other LORD beside Thee; and that Thou mayest look upon it with a forgiving Countenance, and pour into it the gift of everlasting life. Amen.

O GOD, the strong Foundation of our faith, establish me in Thy truth and righteousness, and grant me with such boldness to confess Thy SON our LORD before men, that He may confess me before Thee, and Thy angels in heaven. Amen.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

GOD, Who hast made all things for  
Thyself,

Who workest all things according  
to the counsel of Thy will ;

In Whose hand is the soul of every  
one living, and the spirit of all flesh ;

Who dost great things and unsearch-  
able, and wonderful things without  
number ;

Who takest the wise in their crafti-  
ness, and disappointest the counsels of  
the wicked ;

Who art the FATHER of orphans,  
and the Judge of widows ;

Have mercy on us.

Our Protector, and our exceeding great  
Reward,

Be merciful and spare us, O LORD.

From all sin ;

From pride and vain-glory ;

From spiritual sloth, and forgetful-  
ness of Thee ;

Through Thy great Majesty and  
eternal Glory ;

Through Thine infinite Mercy ;

Through all the humiliations and  
sufferings of Thine Only-Begotten SON,

O LORD, deliver us.

LAMB of GOD, that takest away the sins  
of the world ;

Have mercy on us.

O LOVING LORD, JESU CHRIST, I pray  
Thee for those who love me, and whom I  
love in Thee. For Thine own sake make  
them love Thee with all their heart, with  
all their mind, with all their soul; that  
those things alone which are pleasing to  
Thee and expedient for them, they may  
will, and speak, and do; and that being  
always and everywhere ruled and protected  
by Thee, they may attain to a glorious and  
eternal reward, through Thy merits, Who  
livest and reignest with the FATHER and the  
HOLY GHOST, One GOD, for ever. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

When I sink down in gloom or fear,  
Hope blighted or delayed,  
Thy whisper, LORD, my heart shall cheer,  
“ ’Tis I, be not afraid.”

Or startled at some sudden blow,  
If fretful thoughts I feel,  
“ Fear not, it is but I ! ” shall flow,  
As balm my wound to heal.

Nor will I quit Thy way, though foes  
Some onward pass defend;  
From each rough voice the watchword goes,  
“ Be not afraid ! a friend ! ”

And O ! when judgment's trumpet clear  
Awakes me from the grave,  
Still in its echo may I hear,  
“ ’Tis CHRIST ! He comes to save.”

PSALM CXIX. *Et veniat super me.*

Let Thy loving mercy come also unto me, O LORD : even Thy salvation, according unto Thy word.

So shall I make answer unto my blasphemers : for my trust is in Thy word.

O take not the word of Thy truth utterly out of my mouth : for my hope is in Thy judgments.

So shall I alway keep Thy law : yea, for ever and ever.

And I will walk at liberty : for I seek Thy commandments.

I will speak of Thy testimonies also, even before kings : and will not be ashamed.

And my delight shall be in Thy commandments : which I have loved.

My hands also will I lift up unto Thy commandments, which I have loved : and my study shall be in Thy statutes.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

“Ye shall draw water out of the wells of salvation.”—Isa. xii. 3.

The wells of salvation contain four fountains of grace, saith S. Bernard; and it was to these fountains, opened for the healing of the nations, that S. John Baptist specially summoned all men, when he stood beside the river Jordan, and called aloud, “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” There stood the Saint of the desert in awful semblance—himself despising the world and all its treasures—calling upon his fellow men in like wise to despise all things save their salvation; bidding them repent and seek first the kingdom of GOD: and many who heard, yea, great multitudes, flocked to him, earnestly desiring to be taught in the way of repentance; and confessing their sins, were baptized by the holy Baptist. But are those sacred fountains sealed now? Is there no voice crying unto us also, “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand?” Yes, surely. Every Priest in CHRIST’S holy Catholic Church is entrusted with the same message, and in like

manner is called of GOD specially to preach repentance and the remission of sins to His people; to summon them to draw water out of the wells of salvation, and live for ever.

My soul, hast thou diligently sought to gain these living waters, so lovingly offered thee by thy SAVIOUR? Search thyself, and see how thou hast profited by those gifts. Of those wells are the Sacraments: hast thou diligently used them, and treasured up GOD'S grace imparted therein? Another "well of salvation" is filled with the cleansing mercy of CHRIST—His tears and Blood. "He loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own Blood?" Hast thou carried all thy sins and infirmities to that well of purification? Another well is filled even to overflowing with peace and consolation for all our trials and tribulations: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, and I will hear thee;" "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." He that thirsteth for true consolations even in this world, let him come to Me, and I will satisfy him. He that once tasteth the water of My love, will for ever disdain all the delights of the world. "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst," even in this world; and abundantly satisfied will he be when he shall enter into the

kingdom of the blessed, for the water of My grace shall raise him from earth to heaven. It will become in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The peace which GOD gives to the souls that love Him, is not the peace that the world gives through sensual pleasures, which leave them unrested and unfilled save with bitterness; GOD's peace exceeds all earthly peace, it "surpasseth all understanding." Blessed are they who long for this holy fountain! blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness!

Another well of salvation is that of fervent devotion. The devout soul, ever meditating upon CHRIST and His Coming, will be like a tree planted by the water-side. Such souls shall indeed draw forth living waters with great joy and rest of heart; to them John Baptist's cry, ever repeated by the Priests of GOD, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand," will cause no terror and alarm; it will but make them more earnestly trim their lamps, and gird up their loins, that they may be found ready.

O HOLY SPIRIT, strengthen our feeble hearts, to the end that we may attentively hear, and diligently follow the trumpet sounded by Thy appointed watchmen, and so deny our fleshly lusts, warring against sin and the devil, and advancing in holy

living and in Thy grace, that whensoever the kingdom of heaven cometh, we may have our portion therein, with Thee; to Whom with the FATHER and the SON be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

O Eternal FATHER, raise up in Thy Church many true followers of Thy holy servant John Baptist; and fill the hearts of all Thy Priests with a steadfast purpose to prepare Thee a perfect people, to preach Thy law with zeal and fervour, and to confirm by their lives that which they teach with their lips; and so to gather a rich harvest of many souls into life eternal, there to dwell with Thee, and the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT. Amen.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

For Thy whole Church, LORD, hear us.

For all Bishops and Prelates therein;

For all Priests and Deacons therein;

That they may serve and please Thee truly;

That they may sound the trumpet of salvation diligently, and rouse the people to watchfulness;

That they may be blessed with the spirit of patience and mortification;

Hear us, O LORD.

That they may be taught abundantly of  
Thee what things they ought to speak ;

Hear us, O LORD.

That they may call many sinners to re-  
pentance ;

Hear us, O LORD.

And to the people, O LORD, give an obe-  
dient spirit, and loving, teachable hearts.

O Blessed SAVIOUR, Who didst send  
Thy servant to prepare Thy way before  
Thee, and Who wilt that we likewise pre-  
pare our hearts to receive Thee ; grant that  
my life may ever consist in doing Thy  
will ; keep Thou my going out and coming  
in, and enable me, whatsoever I do, to do  
all in conformity to Thy will, now and for  
ever. Amen.

O LORD our GOD, Great, Eternal, won-  
derful in glory, Who keepest Thy covenant  
and promise with those that love Thee from  
their heart ; Who art the Life of all, the  
Help of those that flee unto Thee, the Hope  
of those that cry unto Thee. Cleanse us  
from all our sins, secret and open, and from  
every thought that is displeasing in Thy  
sight : cleanse our bodies and souls, our  
hearts and consciences ; so that with pure  
hearts and souls, with perfect love and calm  
hope, we may wait Thy Second Coming  
and be accepted of Thee in the last day ;

Who livest and reignest now and ever.  
Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

Creator of the starry frame !  
Eternal Light of all who live !  
JESU, Redeemer of mankind !  
An ear to Thy poor suppliants give.

When man was sunk in sin and death,  
Lost in the depth of Satan's snare,  
Love brought Thee down to cure our ills,  
By taking of these ills a share.

Thou for the sake of guilty men,  
Causing Thine own pure Blood to flow,  
Didst issue from Thy Virgin shrine,  
And to the Cross a victim go.

So great the glory of Thy might,  
If we but chance Thy Name to sound,  
At once all heaven and hell unite  
In bending low with awe profound.

Great Judge of all ! in that last day,  
When friends shall fail, and foes combine,  
Be present then with us, we pray,  
To guard us with Thy arm Divine.

To GOD the FATHER, and the SON,  
All praise and power and glory be ;  
With Thee, O Holy Comforter,  
Henceforth through all eternity.

Amen.

PSALM CXIX. *Deficit anima mea.*

My soul hath longed for Thy salvation :  
and I have a good hope because of Thy  
word.

Mine eyes long sore for Thy word : say-  
ing, O when wilt Thou comfort me ?

For I am become like a bottle in the  
smoke : yet do I not forget Thy statutes.

How many are the days of Thy servant :  
when wilt Thou be avenged of them that  
persecute me ?

The proud have digged pits for me : which  
are not after Thy law.

All Thy commandments are true : they  
persecute me falsely ; O be Thou my help.

They had almost made an end of me upon  
earth : but I forsook not Thy command-  
ments.

O quicken me after Thy loving-kindness :  
and so shall I keep the testimonies of Thy  
mouth.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

“ At midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet Him ! ”

In the Church there are both careless and holy members, and both agree to expect the Coming of CHRIST our LORD to judge them, and to celebrate the marriage of His Spouse, the Church triumphant. All agree as to the necessity of making ready to meet Him, but in how different a manner ! The careless have indeed lamps, but no vessels of oil wherewith to fill them ; that is, they have a form of belief which they call faith, but no charity to feed and kindle it. They have a cold, dull, exterior light, but none of the inward anointing of the SPIRIT, bringing forth fervent affections. They profess an outward attention to religion, but the good they do is weighed and measured by what is absolutely necessary, not by how much they can offer of time, means, talents, and affections to GOD. Their chief hopes and thoughts are for this life ; and so when death comes, they are but ill prepared to go forth and meet the Bridegroom. Is it not folly indeed to expect with so little prepa-



ration the Coming of a Judge so rigorous, and a Bridegroom so jealous? O Sovereign Judge, and Most Gracious Bridegroom of my soul, deliver me, I beseech Thee, from this foolishness, and suffer me not to content myself with a careless, unloving preparation, but strengthen me with grace ever to watch and pray, and so make ready to go forth and meet Thee with joy.

Those who live in constant expectation of the Bridegroom's Coming, and who desire to be found ready, keep their lamps always trimmed with living faith and active charity; daily seeking to kindle and illumine their souls at the Fountain of All Light; and so to watch, that the call to meet the Bridegroom may not take them unawares. All "slumber and sleep,"—some by sickness and age, and all by the sleep of death. But the watchful look upon their natural rest night by night as a memorial of death; and so even therein they keep up a manner of watching for their LORD.

O Sovereign Judge, deliver me of Thy great mercy from the sleep of sin; suffer not my soul to slumber, lest I fall into a deadly sleep. Grant me not to despise or neglect slight sins, lest I fall unawares into those that are great. Awake, O my soul, from thy sleep, and cry to JESUS CHRIST, that He may raise thee up, and quicken

thee with His never-failing grace, whereby thou mayest live everlastingly. Amen.

Remember the midnight call, O my soul, and let that awful Voice ever sound in thine ears, reminding thee that thou must seek to be ready, since thou knowest neither the day nor the hour when the summons will come. When sickness touches thee, imagine it to be the sound of His Voice, in order that thou mayest prepare thyself, for how canst thou tell how thy sickness will end? When thou goest to the holy Altar, to feed upon the Bread of Life, hear then that Voice, saying, "Behold, He cometh, go forth to meet Him," with becoming reverence and preparation.

O what contentments will they find who have prepared themselves in time! O what joyfulness to see themselves with Him whom they have so greatly loved! O what sweetness and what comfort will they receive who see their heavenly Bridegroom face to face, and receiving His kiss of acceptance, sit down to eat with Him at His Table, and to drink of the river of His delights! How resplendent will the lamp of their souls be with the Light of His Glory! how ardent with the fire of His Love! how rich and joyful with the oil of divine consolation! how secure for ever in the mansions of GOD! O happy labours, which

lead to so precious a repose! O joyful and blessed entrance, when "the door is shut," and we can never go back to earth's sins, and sorrows, and trials; never more tremble lest we stand without, not being admitted! Grant me, O my GOD, grace to find that entrance, to go out no more, but dwell for ever before Thy Face, praising and blessing Thee with all Thy glorified Saints. Open wide the gates of my heart, that I may receive Thee, and do Thou open to me the gates of Heaven, that I may enter in, and there abide, and rejoice with the Heavenly Bridegroom for ever and ever. Amen.

O LORD our GOD, Who year by year dost set before us the Coming of Thy only SON JESUS CHRIST; Grant us to make ready for His Last Coming to judge the world, that we may go forth with joy in that awful day, and meet Him, trusting not in our own merits, but in Thy mercy; and being delivered from death and sin, and all the miseries of this world, may dwell with Him, together with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, Who liveth and reigneth, ever One GOD, world without end. Amen.

LORD, have mercy.  
 CHRIST, have mercy.  
 LORD, have mercy.

From all sin and evil ; From Thy wrath and indignation ; From a careless spirit of neglect ; From the deadly sleep of sin ; From all dangers that threaten us ; From plague, famine, and war ; From sudden and unlooked-for death From the snares of the devil ; From anger, hatred, and every evil will ; From everlasting death ; By the mystery of Thy holy Incar- nation ; By Thy Second Coming as Judge ;	}	O LORD, deliver us.
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Show forth upon us, O LORD, in Thy mercy, Thy unspeakable loving-kindness; loose us from all our sins; and deliver us from the punishments which we deserve for them. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

O Thou, Who Thine own FATHER's Breast  
 Forsaking, Word Sublime !  
 Didst come to aid a world distressed,  
 In Thy appointed time :

Our hearts enlighten with Thy ray,  
 And kindle with Thy love ;  
 That, dead to earthly things, we may  
 Live but to things above.

So when before the Judgment-seat  
 The sinner hears his doom,  
 And when a Voice divinely sweet  
 Shall call the righteous home ;

Safe from the black and fiery flood,  
 That sweeps the dread abyss,  
 May we behold the Face of God,  
 In everlasting bliss.

Now to the FATHER, with the SON,  
 And SPIRIT evermore,  
 Be glory while the ages run,  
 As in all time before.

**PSALM CXIX.    *In æternum, Domine.***

O LORD, Thy word : endureth for ever  
 in Heaven.

Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another : Thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.

They continue this day according to Thine ordinance : for all things serve Thee.

If my delight had not been in Thy law :  
 I should have perished in my trouble.

I will never forget Thy commandments :  
 for with them Thou hast quickened me.

I am Thine, O save me : for I have sought  
 Thy commandments.

The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy  
 me : but I will consider Thy testimonies.

I see that all things come to an end :  
but Thy commandment is exceeding broad.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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### CHRISTMAS EVE.

“Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy.”  
—S. Luke ii. 10.

On this day the Church's watch-word is  
“Rejoice.” Her cries of sorrow give place  
to Alleluias. She puts on the “garment of  
praise,” and anoints herself with the “oil  
of gladness,” that she may join her voice  
with that of Angels, and welcome Her  
“SAVIOUR, which is CHRIST the LORD.”

In Heaven there is great joy. “All the  
Angels of GOD adore Him” as a Child,  
Whom they had worshipped as GOD. All  
look with high reverence upon this blessed  
Babe, saying, “Glory to GOD in the highest,  
and on earth peace, goodwill towards men.”

And there is joy in earth. For the “De-  
liverer” is come. The “Hope and Glory  
of all lands.” He comes to save mankind,  
to redeem the world.

O happy tidings! Peace with GOD, and  
with Angels: Peace to each one with him-

self and with all others : Reconciliation to the FATHER, the remission of sins, victory over Satan, subjection of the flesh to the Spirit, and "good-will" from the ALMIGHTY to all "men of good-will."

O most gracious SAVIOUR, give me this good-will which Thou offerest us, that I may deny my own will, and follow Thine, which is holy, pleasing, and perfect, and the beginning of all good in me.

But who sent these "tidings of great joy?" The Eternal FATHER, to honour His SON, and to show how He loved the world. I humbly thank Thee, therefore, O Heavenly FATHER, for this gift of Thy dear SON. Well hath He merited that Thou shouldest honour Him, since He hath humbled Himself to honour Thee. And O teach me to sing this hymn of Thy Angels, with the same spirit with which they sang it.

O Prince of Peace, lift up my heart that I may glorify Thee upon earth, that whatever I shall say or do, whether of myself, or for others, may be to Thy glory, without seeking mine own; and that from my mouth and heart this word may never depart, "Glory to GOD."

Glory to the FATHER, for having given us His SON.

Glory to the SON, for having become man for our redemption.

And Glory to the HOLY GHOST, from Whose love this work did proceed. Amen.

Make haste and tarry not, O LORD.

Come, LORD, and release Thy people from their sins.

Receive the Word, Virgin Mary, which is sent to thee from the LORD by the Angel, thou shalt conceive and bring forth Him that is both GOD and man; that thou mayest be called Blessed among women.

For thou shalt bring forth a SON, and suffer no loss of Virginity; thou shalt be with Child, and be the Mother ever undefiled.

The LORD shall arise upon thee, O Jerusalem.

And His Glory shall be seen upon thee.

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just.

Let the earth be opened, and bud forth a SAVIOUR.

Lift up thine eyes, O Jerusalem, and behold the greatness of thy King:

Behold, the SAVIOUR cometh to loose thee from thy chains.

O LORD, show thy mercy upon us.

And grant us Thy salvation.

Remember me, O LORD, according to the favour that Thou bearest unto Thy people.

And visit me with Thy salvation.

Come and deliver us, O LORD GOD of hosts.



Show the Light of Thy Countenance,  
and we shall be whole.

The heathen shall fear Thy Name, O  
LORD;

And all the Kings of the earth Thy  
Majesty.

Bow down Thine ear, O LORD, to our  
prayer, we beseech Thee, and enlighten  
the darkness of our minds by the grace of  
Thy visitation; Who livest and reignest  
with the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT,  
one GOD, blessed for ever. Amen.

### LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

Infant JESUS, hear us.

Infant JESUS, graciously hear us.

GOD the FATHER, of Heaven;

GOD the SON, our Redeemer;

GOD the HOLY GHOST;

Holy Trinity, One GOD;

} Have mercy  
on us.

Infant JESUS, Very GOD;

Infant, SON of the Living GOD;

Infant, Son of the Virgin Mary;

Infant, Begotten before the Morn-  
ing Star;

Infant, Word made flesh;

} Have mercy and  
come among us.

Infant, Wisdom of Thy FATHER;  
 Infant, Equal to Thy FATHER;  
 Infant, subject to Thy Mother;  
 Infant, precious Fruit of a Virgin;  
 Infant, Treasure of all Grace;  
 Infant, Fountain of Love;  
 Infant, Head of the Angels;  
 Infant, Stem of the Patriarchs;  
 Infant, Word of the Prophets;  
 Infant, Expectation of nations;  
 Infant, Joy of the shepherds;

Have mercy, and come  
 among us.

Infant JESUS, LAMB of GOD, Who takest  
 away the sins of the world;  
 Have mercy on us.

O LORD JESUS, Who didst vouchsafe so  
 to annihilate the greatness of Thy Incar-  
 nate Divinity and most Sacred Humanity,  
 as to be born in time, and become a Little  
 Child; grant that we may acknowledge  
 Infinite Wisdom in the silence of a Child,  
 Omnipotence in weakness, Majesty in abase-  
 ment; so that adoring Thy humiliations on  
 earth, we may contemplate Thy glories in  
 Heaven, Who with the FATHER and the  
 HOLY GHOST, livest and reignest, GOD for  
 ever and ever. Amen.

O LORD, be near to us, and to all who look  
 for Thee in truth, that at the Coming of  
 Thy SON our LORD, we may be presented  
 unto Thee with deeds well pleasing in Thy

sight, through the same JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Grant, O GOD, that we who celebrate the Nativity of Thine Only-Begotten SON, may have new life in Him, through Whose heavenly mystery we have the true Meat, and the true Drink, even the Body and Blood of Thy SON our LORD. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

From the far blazing gate of morn,  
To earth's remotest shore,  
Let every tongue confess to Him,  
Whom holy Mary bore.

Lo! the great Maker of the world,  
LORD of eternal years,  
To save His creatures, veil'd beneath  
A creature's form appears.

A spotless Maiden's virgin breast  
With heavenly grace He fills ;  
In her pure womb He is conceiv'd,  
And there in secret dwells.

That bosom, Chastity's sweet home,  
Becomes, O blest reward !  
The shrine of Heaven's Immortal King,  
The temple of the LORD.

And Mary bears the Babe, foretold  
By an Archangel's voice ;  
Whose Presence made the Baptist leap,  
And in the womb rejoice.

A manger scantily strewn with hay  
Becomes the Eternal's bed ;

And He who feeds each smallest bird,  
Himself with milk is fed.

Straightway with joy the Heavens are filled,  
The hosts angelic sing ;  
And shepherds hasten to adore  
Their Shepherd and their King.

Praise to the FATHER ! praise to Thee,  
Thou Virgin's Holy Son !  
Praise to the SPIRIT Paraclete,  
While endless ages run.

Amen.

PSALM XIX. *Cæli enarrant.*

The Heavens declare the glory of God :  
and the firmament sheweth His handywork.

One day telleth another : and one night  
certifieth another.

There is neither speech nor language :  
but their voices are heard among them.

Their sound is gone out into all lands :  
and their words into the ends of the world.

In them hath He set a tabernacle for the  
sun : which cometh forth as a bridegroom  
out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant  
to run his course.

He goeth forth from the uttermost part  
of the heaven, and runneth about unto the  
end of it again : and there is nothing hid  
from the heat thereof.

The law of the LORD is an undefiled law, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are right, and rejoice the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, and endureth for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is Thy servant taught: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Who can tell how oft he offendeth: O cleanse Thou me from my secret faults.

Keep Thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me: so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart: be always acceptable in Thy sight,

O LORD: my Strength and my Redeemer.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## CHRISTMAS DAY.

Glory be to the Prince of Peace, Who reigneth over all the earth.

When the days were accomplished, Mary brought forth her First-born Son.

The Word was made Flesh, and dwelt among us.

Whom saw ye, O shepherds ? Say ye, tell us Who hath appeared upon earth ? We beheld the Child, and a Choir of Angels singing unto our LORD and SAVIOUR. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Unto us a Child has been born this day ; and His Name shall be called, The Mighty God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Glory be to GOD in the highest, and on earth peace ; good will towards men. Alleluia. Amen.

“ Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

S. Cyprian saith that the Word Incarnate made His first entrance into the world a pattern of our first entrance into the Christian religion ; that His disciples might enter by the way He entered, exercising those virtues which He exercised. To this end

He left all that the world most loves and seeks, and sought after all that which the world abhors and flies. And as He came into the world not to do His own will, but the will of Him that sent Him, He would be born in that place which His FATHER ordained, and be born obeying, as He died obeying; that all of us might learn to obey.

O Blessed JESUS, my LORD and SAVIOUR, make my life to consist in doing Thy will, keep Thou my coming in and going out, and all whatsoever I do, and guide me in Thy footsteps, now and ever. Amen.

He was lying in a manger, He Whose greatness could not be contained by the Heaven of heavens. O Eternal Word Incarnate, how soon the world begins to reject Thee, Thou Who hast come to redeem that world! O come and make Thy dwelling-place in my heart! Thou hast said, Behold, I stand at the door and knock; come, knock, call, and I will open unto Thee, that Thou mayest come in and dwell with Thy servant for ever.

O my most sweet and Sovereign LORD, how can I duly thank Thee for thus vouchsafing to take upon Thee man's nature, and to come as a Child in extreme poverty to redeem me? O that I could worship Thee, the Child JESUS, with the humility and lowliness of babes and sucklings, in whose

mouths Thou hast perfected praise. Behold, I here present myself in spirit before Thy Divine Majesty, and offer to Thee all that I am and have, wholly to Thy service for ever. Accept, O LORD, the desires of my heart, and give me grace to fulfil them.

O most adorable Babe, gracious in Thy humility; the more Thou art despised for me, the more worthy Thou art to be loved. and the more Thou art humbled, so much the more exalted; for in Thy humiliations Thou showest forth the greatness of Thy boundless Love towards man. O that I could love Thee as Thou deservest! O that I could abase and humble myself as I deserve! Let me learn of Thee to humble myself, that by Thy mercy I may one day be exalted with Thee in heaven.

Hearken to the voice of thy SAVIOUR as He cries, "Behold, I come to do Thy will, O GOD." "Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart, and except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Hearken likewise to the voice of the Heavenly Host, as they praise and glorify their GOD, hidden beneath the veil of flesh; "Holy, holy, holy art Thou, LORD GOD of Hosts, the earth is full of Thy glory," even while Thou liest in that poor stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes.



O King of Glory, lift up my heart to the highest, that I may glorify Thy Name on earth, as Thy angels glorify It in heaven. Whatever I shall say or do, let it be to Thy glory, without seeking mine own; and from my mouth may this word never depart; Glory be to GOD, Three and One; glory to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST. Glory to the FATHER for having given me His SON; glory to the SON, for having become man for my redemption; and glory to the HOLY GHOST, from Whose love this work did proceed. Amen.

It is written, "Let all the Angels of GOD worship Him." O my GOD, I adore Thee with them, and with them I sing, Glory be to Thee in this poor manger of Thine; and I desire that all the world may sing it to Thee in Thy Church, that by all Thou mayest be glorified, world without end. Amen.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

Infant JESUS, One with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, Have mercy on us.

Infant JESUS, Power of GOD;	} Have mer- cy on us.
Infant JESUS, our Brother;	
Infant JESUS, Giver of Life, yet nourished at a pure Virgin's breast;	

Infant JESUS, Eternal Word, yet  
making Thyself dumb;

Infant JESUS, LORD of heaven and  
earth, yet weeping in the manger;

Infant JESUS, clothed with glory,  
yet wrapped in swaddling bands;

Infant JESUS, King of kings, and  
LORD of Lords, yet housed in a stable;

Infant JESUS, strong in weakness;

Infant JESUS, Author of the bless-  
ings of heaven;

Infant JESUS, Repairer of the evils  
of earth;

Have mercy on us.

From the bondage of sin,

From the wiles of the devil,

From the temptations of the world,

From the lust of the flesh,

From the pride of life,

From blindness of mind,

From perversity of will,

From hardness of heart,

Infant JESUS,  
deliver us.

Through Thy most humble Birth, Infant  
JESUS, deliver us.

We give Thee thanks, most Loving JE-  
SUS, because for our sake Thou didst choose  
to be born in a poor stable at midnight,  
and in the midst of winter to be wrapped  
in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger, and  
fed at Thy mother's breast. Grant, Blessed  
LORD, that we may become like little child-

ren, humble and poor in spirit. Grant us, like the wise men from the East, to seek after Thee with diligence, and find Thee in the cradle of our hearts, and there adore Thee, offering up the gold of charity, the incense of devotion, and the myrrh of mortification. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

JESU, Redeemer of the world !

Who, ere the earliest dawn of light,  
Wast from eternal ages born,  
Immense in glory as in light !

Immortal hope of all mankind !

In Whom the FATHER'S Face we see ;  
Hear Thou the prayers Thy people pour  
This day throughout the world to Thee.

Remember, O Creator LORD,

That in the Virgin's sacred womb  
Thou wast conceived, and of her flesh  
Didst our mortality assume,

This ever-blest recurring Day

Its witness bears, that all alone  
From Thy own FATHER'S Bosom forth,  
To save the world Thou camest down.

O Day ! to which the seas and sky,

And earth and heaven, glad welcome sing ;

O Day which healed our misery,

And brought on earth salvation's King !

We too, O LORD, who have been cleansed  
In Thine Own fount of Blood Divine,  
Offer the tribute of sweet song,  
On this blest natal Day of Thine.

O JESU ! born of Virgin bright,  
Immortal glory be to Thee ;  
Praise to the FATHER Infinite,  
And HOLY GHOST eternally.

Amen.

PSALM XXI. *Domine, in virtute tua.*

The king shall rejoice in Thy strength,  
O LORD : exceeding glad shall he be of Thy  
salvation.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire :  
and hast not denied him the request of his  
lips.

For Thou shalt prevent him with the  
blessings of goodness : and shalt set a  
crown of pure gold upon his head.

He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest  
him a long life : even for ever and ever.

His honour is great in Thy salvation :  
glory and great worship shalt Thou lay upon  
him.

For Thou shalt give him everlasting fe-  
licity : and make him glad with the joy of  
Thy countenance.

And why ? because the king putteth his  
trust in the LORD : and in the mercy of the  
most Highest he shall not miscarry.

All Thine enemies shall feel Thy hand :  
Thy right hand shall find out them that  
hate Thee.

Thou shalt make them like a fiery oven  
in time of Thy wrath : the LORD shall de-  
stroy them in His displeasure, and the fire  
shall consume them.

Their fruit shalt Thou root out of the  
earth : and their seed from among the child-  
ren of men.

For they intend mischief against Thee :  
and imagined such a device as they are not  
able to perform.

Therefore shalt Thou put them to flight :  
and the strings of Thy bow shalt Thou  
make ready against the face of them.

Be Thou exalted, LORD, in Thine own  
strength : so will we sing, and praise Thy  
power.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## S. STEPHEN'S DAY.

They stoned Stephen, calling upon God,  
and crying with a loud voice, Lay not this  
sin to their charge.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm-

tree; and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Libanus. Alleluia.

We fools accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honour. How is he numbered among the children of GOD, and his lot is among the saints!

My soul cleaveth unto Thee, O LORD: though an host of men be set against me, yet will I trust in Thee.

He looked up steadfastly, and saw the heavens opened, and the glory of GOD, and JESUS standing at the right hand of GOD.

Blessed are they that enter therein.

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Stephen "being full of the HOLY GHOST, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of GOD, and JESUS standing at the right hand of GOD, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of GOD."—Acts vii. 55, 56.

In this marvellous vision we see the extraordinary favour of GOD towards His elect. And that which fitted S. Stephen for so high a favour was his being "full of the HOLY GHOST," of His gifts and graces.

Illuminated by this Divine Teacher, "he looked up steadfastly into heaven;" not so much with the eyes of the body, as with those of the soul, longing for heavenly things, sighing after them, and praying for

himself and others. And he "saw the glory of GOD, and JESUS standing on the right hand of GOD;" the heavenly Light which shone upon his soul strengthened his faith, till he beheld with his interior eyes "the glory of GOD" in the Majesty of His Trinity, and "JESUS" in the Mystery of His glorious Humanity.

O blessed vision! O ample reward, that was vouchsafed to the servant of GOD! Stephen had witnessed a wonderful confession, and GOD bestowed upon him a wonderful favour.

JESUS had beheld the suffering member of His Body faithful in the fight, and as the Captain of Salvation He encouraged the soldier by His Presence. He revealed Himself not *sitting*, but *standing*, to give His servant thereby to understand that He was ready to help him in the combat, and to crown him when it was over. And Stephen said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of GOD."

In his dying hour he was an eye-witness of the truth which he had preached, and of Him Whom he saw, even "the Son of Man." Even to the last he received the favour of GOD, not as if intended for his own enjoyment, but that he might publish GOD's glory, through CHRIST, for the good

of souls, and that he might incite others to dispose themselves to see the things which he saw, and to believe and love that which he himself believed and loved.

I rejoice, O glorious S. Stephen, for the fortitude with which thou didst defend the honour of thy Master, honouring Him Who honoured thee, and offering to die for Him Who died for thee.

Oh that I could imitate the faithfulness of this pure warrior, and be clothed with the same armour from above, that imitating him in the conflict, I might likewise attain the crown.

O most loving JESUS, grant that I may believe with a lively faith whatever Thou hast revealed to us, and that by continually ascending to Thee in meditation and contemplation, I may in the end come to the clear vision of Thy Godhead. Lift up my spirit to heavenly places, that I may look for the help which Thou offerest me, and for the reward which Thou hast promised me; and that I may esteem it the highest favour to follow Thy providence, and to die in Thy love.

O merciful JESUS, receive my soul, together with the souls of all the faithful, and take it under Thy protection; so that, having served Thee on earth, I may afterwards enjoy Thee in heaven. Amen.



Joyously hath the illustrious memory of the martyr dawned upon us, dispersing the darkness of malice, and interceding for the world.

Saintly Stephen! thou didst stand before the tribunal with unconquered boldness, thrillingly proclaiming the Incarnation of Him that emptied Himself to the form of a servant,—our Redeemer.

Not in wisdom, not in might, not in wealth do we trust; but in Thee, O CHRIST! the substantial Wisdom of the FATHER. For there is none holy but Thou, O Lover of men.

Our FATHER, &c.

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bare the SON of the Eternal FATHER.

And blessed are the breasts which gave suck to CHRIST our LORD.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

O Captain of the Martyr Host,

O glorious in renown!

Not from the fading flowers of Earth

Weave we for thee a crown.

O earliest victim sacrificed,

To thy dear Victim LORD!

O earliest witness to the faith

Of thy Incarnate God;

Thou to the heavenly Canaan first  
Through the red sea didst go,  
And to the martyrs' countless host,  
Their path of glory show.

Erewhile a servant of the poor,—  
Now at the LAMB'S high Feast,  
In blood-empurpled robe arrayed,  
A welcome nuptial guest,

To JESUS, born of Virgin bright,  
Praise with the FATHER be ;  
Praise to the Spirit Paraclete,  
Through all eternity.

Amen.

PSALM XII. *Salvum me fac.*

Help me, LORD, for there is not one  
godly man left : for the faithful are minished  
from among the children of men.

They talk of vanity every one with his  
neighbour : they do but flatter with their  
lips, and dissemble in their double heart.

The LORD shall root out all deceitful lips :  
and the tongue that speaketh proud things ;

Which have said, With our tongue will  
we prevail : we are they who ought to speak,  
who is lord over us ?

Now for the comfortless troubles' sake of  
the needy : and because of the deep sighing  
of the poor,

I will up, saith the LORD : and will help

every one from him that swelleth against him, and will set him at rest.

The words of the LORD are pure words : even as the silver, which from the earth is tried, and purified seven times in the fire.

Thou shalt keep them, O LORD : Thou shalt preserve him from this generation for ever.

The ungodly walk on every side : when they are exalted the children of men are put to rebuke.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## S. JOHN'S DAY.

Let us commemorate the blessed John, who was lying on JESUS' breast at supper.

This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things ; and we know that his testimony is true.

This is My disciple. If I will that he tarry until I come, what is that to thee ? I say unto you, that some of them that stand here shall not see death, until the Son of Man come in His kingdom.

These are Mine, whom I have chosen, upon them will I pour the SPIRIT of GOD.

Greatly is blessed John to be had in honour; for he leant on JESUS' bosom at the Last Supper, and to him were made known the secrets of heaven.

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“ There was leaning on JESUS' bosom one of His disciples, whom JESUS loved.”

What man more blessed than this? Who was ever more favoured than he? It was a sweet memory to S. John, in his old and solitary age, to remember that night of awe, in which he lay upon the bosom of his LORD. What was all that he had ever suffered, long years of toil and weariness, with contradiction and persecution, bondage, and a martyrdom of will, to the consciousness of his Master's love? And yet it was doubtless for some deeper reason that the Evangelist wrote these words; it was not to publish abroad his own peculiar favours; nor to prefer himself to others in his Master's Presence. He had long since unlearned to seek the right hand or the left in His kingdom; and he sought herein rather to reveal the deep and Divine mysteries of love, which lie hid in the Incarnation of the Eternal Word. And we are each called to share S. John's blessing, for-

asmuch as to each of us the gracious words are spoken, "Come unto Me, and I will give you rest."

Those, who by GOD's grace have been kept pure from their Baptism, rest upon His bosom, in calm, undoubting trust and confidence; conscious of the love their LORD bears them, and which they return to Him. Of such S. John is a special type, in his love, purity, and perseverance. The restored penitent too, how tenderly and pitifully does the LORD teach such to know the calm and rest of His Presence! And those whose afflictions are sanctified, learn to carry their griefs, and lay them on the bosom of the Man of Sorrows, and there find an unearthly rest! He bears both the mourner and his burden, and in the depths of His presence shows him the interpretation of his affliction. In the heart of His Divine sorrow all stands revealed. We laid on Him the necessity of sorrow, and He changed our penalty into our purification. He became the Chief among the sons of affliction, that He might found an order of mourners, to be His own especial followers and friends. It is by sorrow that they are enrolled within the company of His truest servants, and in the nearest approaches to Himself. And the signs of this approach

are, patience, rest, and consent in all our crosses, by a will conformed to His.

Above all, on this side Heaven, what so full a leaning on His bosom, as Communion with Him in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood? All His mystical Body in heaven and earth; all devout and holy souls, who have been united to Him in habitual fellowship of Sacramental Communion; they too are numbered with the disciples whom JESUS loved.

To all such, their Master's bosom is a sure resting-place. In the midst of all sorrows, trials, and temptations, they are at peace; in all the unrest of this tumultuous and weary world, they rest on Him. The one great gift which all alike enjoy, is a sense of repose, a placid calm of heart, a stay upon which they lean with all the weight of their whole spiritual life. "Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee." In such peace then, grant us, O LORD, to wait all the days of our appointed time, until our change come. Grant us to stand and wait, bearing our cross, that we may at length enter into Thy rest. Grant that our work and labour may be so fulfilled, that this our hope may become reality; and passing away from the weariness of this life, we may lean not on Abraham's

bosom, but on Thine, O Word made Flesh, our SAVIOUR, Very Man, and Very GOD. And may we there dwell, for ever and for ever in that blessed kingdom, whereof Thou, and Thou only, art the Life and Light, Who, with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, liveth and reigneth one GOD, world without end. Amen.

O Blessed SAVIOUR, LORD JESUS, behold, my soul panteth after Thee, even as the hart thirsteth after the water-brooks. Grant me grace to drink of those fountains which Thy Love hath opened for Thy servants' comfort and relief. Grant that my soul may be refreshed with the banquet of Thy sweetness, and rested upon the bosom of Thy Love. Grant me to despise all earthly pleasures and consolation, that I may be comforted by Thee, my only Good, my GOD and SAVIOUR, even as those Thy chosen ones who now sit at Thy heavenly Table. And wherein I have set earthly treasures and affections before Thee, O my LORD and Love, grant me heartily to renounce them all, that henceforth all my joy, my treasure and rest, may be in Thee. May I desire nothing but Thee, and, patiently tarrying until Thou dost come, may I follow Thee in life and in death, and enter into Thy glory for ever. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

An exile for the Faith  
Of thy Incarnate LORD,  
Beyond the stars, beyond all space,  
Thy soul unprisoned soared.

There saw in glory Him  
Who liveth, and was dead ;  
There Judah's Lion, and the Lamb  
That for our ransom bled :

There of the kingdom learnt  
The mysteries sublime—  
How, sown in martyr's blood, the Faith  
Should spread from clime to clime.

There the new City, bathed  
In her dear Bridegroom's light,  
Pure seat of bliss, thy spirit saw  
And gloried in the sight.

Now to the LAMB's clear fount,  
To drink of life their fill,  
Thou callest all ;—O LORD, in me  
This blessed thirst instil.

To JESU, Virgin-Born,  
Praise with the FATHER be ;  
Praise to the Blessed Paraclete,  
Through all eternity.

Amen.

PSALM XV. *Domine, quis habitabit.*

LORD, who shall dwell in Thy tabernacle : or who shall rest upon Thy holy hill ?

Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life :

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and doeth the thing that is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.

He that hath used no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbour : and hath not slandered his neighbour.

He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes : and maketh much of them that fear the LORD.

He that sweareth unto his neighbour, and disappointeth him not : though it were to his own hindrance.

He that hath not given his money upon usury : nor taken reward against the innocent.

Whoso doeth these things : shall never fall.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## HOLY INNOCENTS' DAY.

The righteous live for evermore. Their reward also is with the LORD.

Herod was exceeding wroth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, from two years old and under. Alleluia!

I say unto you, their Angels do always

behold the face of your FATHER Which is in heaven. Alleluia!

In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted. Alleluia!

I saw under the Altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of GOD, and for the testimony which they held; and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O LORD, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them that they should rest for a little season. Alleluia!

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast Thou perfected praise. Alleluia!

"These are they which follow the LAMB whithersoever He goeth; these were redeemed from among men, being the first-fruits unto God and to the LAMB."

All our festivals are in some way in honour of our LORD; for everything which the Church has, or does, or is, is in some way in honour of Him, our LORD. It is the province of faith to discover Him in everything; His Might in human weakness; His Truth in human frailty; His Holiness

imparted to them whom He has made His. And this is especially visible on this, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. On other days, the Church thanks GOD for those who have fought the good fight, have rested from their labours, and whose works do follow them; this day she praises GOD for those who had no works, who were withdrawn before the burden and heat of the day, and the perils of that fight, and yet are made equal unto them that had borne it; nay, were the first-fruits unto GOD and unto the LAMB, the first and nearest of His train. And thus would the Church teach "him that glorieth, to glory in the LORD," Who anticipated His Passion to make them partakers of it; gave them the works, which by reason of their tender age they could not perform; and making martyrdom His choicest gift, the very sharing of His cup, the being baptized with His Baptism, bestowed it first on these Innocents; bestowed it freely on all who were nearest the spot and time of His Birth, bestowed it on those, who while yet in the flesh knew not what He bestowed upon them, or Him Who bestowed it, or themselves who received it; like herein to us, who understand so little the mysterious dignity conferred upon our nature, so little of the true nature of His gifts, or of Him Who giveth them.

O LORD GOD, in Thy abounding, never-failing mercy, grant to us, Thy weak and earth-bound servants, who now see but through a glass darkly, that the day may come when we shall see Thee face to face, and know Thee as Thou art.

These Innocents, the earliest in His noble Army of Martyrs, CHRIST crowned without their deserts, that we might the better learn how He gives all that He crowns in those who follow in that glorious train. Therefore one main lesson of this day's festival is the greatness of the gift, the littleness and unconsciousness of those to whom it was given. For even when men have learnt to renounce, as they hope, their own merits and their own works, and would be nothing of themselves, but for all depend upon CHRIST; still self is apt to creep in, yea, all the more sometimes, because people think they so entirely renounce all trust in their good works, that in fact they rely on that, their renunciation, rather than on CHRIST, His Cross and His teaching that we take up that Cross and follow Him.

Sometimes we may think much of our own clear faith, our knowledge of Gospel truth, our confession and reliance upon our Redeemer, even when we think little of our own tarnished works and unprofitable services; and we are apt at the same time to

think little of childlike faith, of the purity of infant Baptism, of the blessedness of being undefiled from actual sin; of children's confidingness, their speechless trust and thanksgiving, their meek repose, their freshness from their Maker's Hands; and thus we do come to think much of what is in some sense our own, and little of that in which there is nothing of man, but which is purely GOD's gift.

But far different is GOD's sight from man's. This day earth saw only Rachel weeping for her children, and could not be comforted; but Heaven saw the blessed and joyous band, following the LAMB whithersoever He goeth; on earth slaughtered babes, in heaven an army of martyrs; on earth the objects of pity and grief, in heaven the foremost of that band which had learned the new song and sang it before the Throne; on earth as we deem knowing nothing, in heaven knowing all that is worth knowing,—that new song which none save virgin souls may sing.

O most glorious King of Martyrs, JESUS CHRIST, Who on this day didst conquer and triumph in these, the babes and sucklings of Thy redeemed; have compassion on my weakness, and aid me with Thy grace, conquering in like wise sin and Satan in my heart. Suffer not wickedness to reign

over me, or deceit to beguile my soul, and rather let me die than live to displease Thee.

O Blessed SAVIOUR, Who hast set forth the healing virtue of Thy Cross, impart to us its saving merits ; bring us nigh to Thee ; look upon our afflictions ; mortify and kill all vices in us ; give pardon for the past ; for the present, innocency of life, and for the future, constancy of faith even unto death. Give us the lowliness of infants ; teach us to abase ourselves, that we be exalted of Thee ; comfort us who mourn, place Thy blessed mark upon us, though it be that of suffering ; so that Thou mayest know and own us in the Day of Judgment. Put a new song into our mouths, even a thanksgiving unto our GOD. Even so, come LORD JESUS. Amen.

O holiest JESUS, Child of a most pure Virgin, GOD Incarnate ! O Life that never fadest ! O Life by which I live, without which I die ! O Life by which I rejoice, without which I mourn ! O Life most sweet and precious, grant that I may be joined to Thee, and, soothed from earthly care by Thy boundless pity and love, may find my holy rest in Thee, Who art our perfect Peace. Amen.

**Our FATHER, &c.**

Glory to Thee, O LORD !

Who from this world of sin,  
By the fierce Herod's ruthless sword,  
These precious ones didst win.

Glory to Thee, O LORD !

For now, all grief unknown,  
They reap in gladness their reward,  
The martyr's heavenly crown.

Baptised in their own blood,  
Earth's untried perils o'er,  
They passed unconsciously the flood,  
And safely gained the shore.

Glory to Thee ! for all

The ransomed infant band,  
Who since that hour have heard Thy call,  
And reached the heavenly land.

O that our hearts within,  
Like theirs were pure and bright ;  
O that, as free from wilful sin,  
We shrunk not from Thy sight.

LORD, help us every hour  
Thy cleansing grace to claim ;  
In life to glorify Thy power,  
In death to praise Thy Name.

Amen.

PSALM VIII. *Domine, Dominus noster.*

O LORD our Governor, how excellent is  
Thy Name in all the world : Thou that hast  
set Thy glory above the heavens !

Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength, because of Thine enemies : that Thou mightest still the enemy, and the avenger.

For I will consider Thy heavens, even the works of Thy fingers : the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained.

What is man, that Thou art mindful of him : and the son of man that Thou visitest him ?

Thou madest him lower than the angels : to crown him with glory and worship.

Thou makest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands : and Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet ;

All sheep and oxen : yea, and the beasts of the field ;

The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea : and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the sea.

O LORD our Governor : how excellent is Thy Name in all the world !

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## THE CIRCUMCISION.

### LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME.

*To be said from the Circumcision to the Epiphany.*

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

O GOD the FATHER, of Heaven;

O GOD the SON, Redeemer of the  
world;

O GOD the HOLY GHOST;

HOLY TRINITY, One GOD.

JESUS, SON of the Living GOD;

JESUS, Splendour of the FATHER;

JESUS, Brightness of Eternal Light;

JESUS, King of Glory;

JESUS, Sun of Righteousness;

JESUS, Son of the Virgin Mary;

JESUS, Most Wonderful;

JESUS, Counsellor;

JESUS, The Mighty GOD;

JESUS, Everlasting Father;

JESUS, Prince of peace;

JESUS, Most powerful;

JESUS, Most patient;

JESUS, Most obedient;

Hear us,  
O LORD.

Have mercy on us.

**JESUS, Meek and humble of heart ;**  
**JESUS, Lover of purity ;**  
**JESUS, our Beloved ;**  
**JESUS, Author of life ;**  
**JESUS, Example of all virtues ;**  
**JESUS, Zealous Lover of souls ;**  
**JESUS, our GOD ;**  
**JESUS, our Refuge ;**  
**JESUS, Father of the poor ;**  
**JESUS, Treasure of the faithful ;**  
**JESUS, Good Shepherd ;**  
**JESUS, True Light ;**  
**JESUS, Eternal Wisdom ;**  
**JESUS, Infinite Goodness ;**  
**JESUS, our Way and our Life ;**  
**JESUS, Joy of Angels ;**  
**JESUS, Master of the Apostles ;**  
**JESUS, Teacher of the Evangelists ;**  
**JESUS, Strength of Martyrs ;**  
**JESUS, Light of Confessors ;**  
**JESUS, Purity of Virgins ;**  
**JESUS, Crown of All Saints ;**

Have mercy on us.

**Be merciful, Spare us, O JESUS.**  
**From all sin ;**  
**From Thy wrath ;**  
**From the snares of the Devil ;**  
**From the spirit of impurity ;**  
**From everlasting death ;**  
**From neglect of Thy inspirations ;**  
**By the mystery of Thy Holy In-**  
**carnation ;**

Deliver us,  
 O JESUS.

By Thy Nativity ;  
 By Thy Holy Childhood ;  
 By Thy most Divine Life ;  
 By Thy Labours ;  
 By Thy Joys and Glory ;

} Deliver us,  
 O JESUS.

LAMB of GOD, Who takest away the sin of the world ;

Have mercy on us, O JESUS.

O GOD, Who hast made the most sweet Name of JESUS a source of joy to Thy faithful people, and a cause of terror to evil spirits ; grant that we who venerate this Holy Name, may in this life obtain comfort, and in the life to come everlasting happiness ; through the Same Thy SON our LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, ever one GOD, world without end. Amen.

“ And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the Child, His Name was called JESUS.”—S. Luke ii. 21.

THE year begins with CHRIST, and CHRIST begins with suffering. Our new year is consecrated with the memory of His entrance upon His sufferings : as though to check the thoughtless exultation of earthly festivities, and to remind us of that Great Example which is set before each one of us.

Wherein is the example set to-day? First, by CHRIST's Obedience to the Law: for as He was GOD, and Almighty, He might have dispensed Himself in this thing, not being bound by the rigour of the Law, nor sullied with original Sin: yet for all this, He would observe all the Old Law; bearing it, as saith the Prophet David, "in the midst of His heart," in order to give us a perfect pattern of obedience. Gaze upon this thy SAVIOUR, O my soul, and offer thyself gladly to bear the light burden and sweet yoke of the New Law, when He thus offers Himself to bear for thee the heavy burden and sharp yoke of the Old Law. If He, for thy example, obeys in these hard things to which He is not obliged, why dost thou refuse to obey Him in those easy things, which He has commanded thee? Pardon, O LORD, my disobedience, and assist me to follow the example Thou gavest me; observing Thy law, even as Thou didst, in singleness of heart and purity. Amen.

Moreover, He set us the example of humility: for though He was free from all spot or stain of sin, He bore the penalty of sin; of patience, in thus bearing the knife of the law; of charity, in that He bore it, not for His own sake, but for ours only. O boundless charity! O invincible patience! O profound humility and perfect obedience of

my Redeemer! O sovereign virtues, from which is woven the holy garment of our High Priest, JESUS, more precious far than purple and scarlet! O High Priest, Who on this day didst clothe Thyself with this garment of blood, to offer this Thy morning sacrifice, and didst again put it on upon the Cross, to offer the evening sacrifice; robe me, even me, with the like vesture, that I may offer up my body and soul, a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing, and acceptable to Thy sovereign majesty.

Again, I must give heed to the spiritual circumcision which our LORD JESUS CHRIST requires of me by this His example; how He would have me mortify and kill all sinful and earthly affections in seeking to accomplish GOD's holy will, and, if need be, die sooner than knowingly offend against that will. It hath been said by a holy man, "Give blood, and thou shalt receive Spirit," for the perfection of the SPIRIT is not attained but by the price of blood, mortifying and circumcising all the affections of flesh and blood. And yet we must not look upon the dark side of suffering only: in itself, it were a punishment for sin,—oppressive—hopeless: through GOD's mercy in CHRIST, it is His healing medicine, to burn out our wounds and purify us for His Presence. All, from the Circumcision to the

Cross—from the most passing bodily pain, to the deepest-seated anguish of the soul, are messengers from Him, and must be treated reverently, and entertained as loving, though stern guests, come to purify our hearts, and make them ready for the Coming of their LORD and Master.

O Blessed SAVIOUR! Who hast so lovingly borne with me and suffered for me! Forgive my many sins and frailties; draw me in penitence and self-renunciation to Thyself. Thou canst not forsake a soul that seeks Thee; teach me henceforth to seek and love Thee above all things. Help me to give Thee an undivided heart; accept me in Thy mercy, and bind me with Thy Love: so that, loving Thee in life, I may die loving Thee; and having loved Thee in suffering here, I may love Thee in blessedness for ever and ever; Who, with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

O most humble LORD and Master, JESU CHRIST, Very GOD and Very Man; Everlasting praise and thanksgiving be to Thee, for that in Thy tenderest age, on the eighth day of Thy mortal life, Thou vouchsafedst to shed Thy precious and innocent Blood for us, and to be made, by painful circumcision, a true son of Abraham. By this most holy shedding of Thy Blood, I beg of Thee

the grace of humility, against all pride, and this world's vanity. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CXLV. *Exaltabo Te, Deus.*

I will magnify Thee, O GOD my King :  
and I will praise Thy Name for ever and  
ever.

Every day will I give thanks unto Thee :  
and praise Thy Name for ever and ever.

Great is the LORD and marvellous, worthy  
to be praised : there is no end of His great-  
ness.

One generation shall praise Thy works  
unto another : and declare Thy power.

As for me, I will be talking of Thy wor-  
ship : Thy glory, Thy praise, and wondrous  
works ;

So that men shall speak of the might of  
Thy marvellous acts : and I will also tell of  
Thy greatness.

The memorial of Thine abundant kind-  
ness shall be showed : and men shall sing  
of Thy Righteousness.

The LORD is gracious and merciful : long-  
suffering, and of great goodness.

The LORD is loving unto every man : and  
His mercy is over all His works.

All Thy works praise Thee, O LORD :  
and Thy saints give thanks unto Thee.

They show the glory of Thy kingdom :  
and talk of Thy power.

That Thy power, Thy glory, and mightiness of Thy kingdom : might be known unto men.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom :  
and Thy dominion endureth throughout all ages.

The LORD upholdeth all such as fall :  
and lifteth up all those that are down.

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O LORD :  
and Thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest Thine Hand : and fillest all things living with plenteousness.

The LORD is righteous in all His ways :  
and holy in all His works.

The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon Him : yea, all such as call upon Him faithfully.

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him : He also will hear their cry, and will help them.

The LORD preserveth all them that love Him : but scattereth abroad all the ungodly.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD : and let all flesh give thanks unto His holy Name for ever and ever.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.



## THE EPIPHANY.

All they from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and incense. Alleluia !

“ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”—S. Matt. ii. 10.

The Eternal FATHER would have His SON, newly born in Bethlehem, to be known and adored by Gentiles as well as Jews ; and, therefore, having sent an Angel to declare the glad tidings to the shepherds, He also set in the East a most bright shining Star, to be a sign that the Messiah and King of Israel was born ; of Whom Balaam had prophesied, desiring that all men should acknowledge and adore Him.

I give Thee thanks, O Sovereign FATHER, for the care Thou hast, that Thy SON should be known and adored of the Gentiles ; as well for His glory and honour, as for the profit of all those that are to know and adore Him. O that all the world might have that blessed knowledge, and worship Him with holy worship !

There were doubtless many in the East who saw the Star, and marvelled at its brightness ; but none rose up to go and seek

Him Who was set forth thereby, save the three kings or wise men. The others were unwilling to take a long laborious journey, not having any certain faith as to its end. And I too must beware, remembering how often I see within my soul GOD's guiding star, showing me the way to seek CHRIST, and to embrace His blessed example of poverty, humility, and charity. But too often, although I see the star, I will not move nor stir, because I would not lose my ease and comfort, nor abandon the things that I love; because I dare not brave a little affliction, or some of the world's contempt. If it be thus with thee, my soul, beware lest there come a day when the star which would have guided thee to salvation, shine on thee for thy condemnation. Therefore I will continually pray for a lively stedfast faith in my GOD, knowing that by His Power I shall overcome all difficulties, and that in His strength I need not fear any dangers, since He will protect me, and set me free.

Let us in spirit go forth with the Wise Men: behold, the Star leads them to the lowly spot where the SAVIOUR of the world is lying, and there in lowliness and poverty they find the King of Heaven and earth, and His Virgin Mother. Let us, with them, fall down and worship, and offer

to Him our whole heart. O Blessed Infant, I see Thee here poor and despised, yet by faith I know that Thou art my GOD, Who camest down from Heaven for my salvation; I acknowledge Thee for my LORD and my King; but what have I to offer Thee? I have no gold of love, for I have wasted my love on things of earth, on my own imaginations, and have not loved Thee as I ought to do. I have not the incense of prayer, for I have often and thoughtlessly forgotten Thee. I have not the myrrh of mortification, for I have often displeased Thy infinite Goodness that I might not be deprived of vain earthly pleasures. What then shall I offer Thee? I offer Thee my heart, all sullied and needy as it is; do Thou accept and change it; even therefore art Thou come, to wash our hearts with Thy Blood, and thus to change sinners into saints. Give Thou me the gold of Thy love; give me the spirit of holy prayer; give me a hearty desire and full strength to give up and cast aside everything which displeases Thee; give me a perfect resolution to obey Thee, and to love Thee. Thou knowest my weakness, O give me grace to be faithful unto Thee. Bind me for ever to Thyself; suffer me not to stray; so that purchased by the riches of Thy love, and purified by the

myrrh of Thy sufferings, I may one day be admitted among Thy jewels, and enter into Thy kingdom of glory. Amen.

O GOD, Who art rich in mercy unto all; O FATHER of glory, Who hast given Thy SON to be a Light unto the nations, to preach redemption unto the captives, and sight unto the blind; do Thou, Who through Him art bounteous in compassion, grant unto us remission of all our sins, and a portion among the saints through faith. Amen.

O GOD, the Enlightener of all nations, take away the veil of darkness and discord that so grievously mars the Unity of Thy Church upon earth. Purify the hearts of Thy people, amend their lives, and grant unto Thy Holy Church the blessings of peace; pouring into our minds that radiant light of faith wherewith Thou didst gladden those Eastern Kings, who as on this day did worship Thine Only SON, the Holy Child JESUS, Who with Thee and the HOLY GHOST liveth and reigneth, now and ever. Amen.

Almighty and Everlasting GOD, Who hast made known the Incarnation of Thine Only SON by the bright shining of a glorious Star; which when the Wise Men beheld, they presented costly gifts, and bowed down to worship and adore Thy

**Majesty :** Grant, we beseech Thee, that the star of faith may ever shine for us, and guide us on towards Heaven ; and that we may abundantly offer ourselves, and all that we have, as treasure unto Thee ; evermore praising Thee and blessing Thee, and saying, Glory be to Thee, O GOD Most High. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

Bethlehem, of noblest cities  
None can once with thee compare ;  
Thou alone the LORD from Heaven,  
Didst for us Incarnate bear.

Fairer than the sun at morning  
Was the star that told His Birth ;  
To the lands their GOD announcing,  
Hid beneath a form of earth.

By its lambent beauty guided,  
See the Eastern Kings appear ;  
See them bend, their gifts to offer,—  
Gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh.

Offerings of mystic meaning ;—  
Incense, doth the GOD disclose ;  
Gold, a Royal Child proclaimeth ;  
Myrrh, a future tomb foreshows.

Holy JESU, in Thy Brightness,  
To the Gentile world displayed !  
With the FATHER and the SPIRIT,  
Endless praise to Thee be paid.

Amen.

PSALM CXXXVIII. *Confitebor Tibi.*

I will give thanks unto Thee, O LORD, with my whole heart : even before the gods will I sing praise unto Thee.

I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy Name, because of Thy loving-kindness and truth : for Thou hast magnified Thy Name, and Thy Word, above all things.

When I called upon Thee, Thou hearest me : and enduedst my soul with much strength.

All the kings of the earth shall praise Thee, O LORD : for they have heard the words of Thy Mouth.

Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD : that great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly : as for the proud, He beholdeth them afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt Thou refresh me : Thou shalt stretch forth Thy Hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and Thy Right Hand shall save me.

The LORD shall make good His loving-kindness toward me : yea Thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever ; despise not then the works of Thine own hands.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## FOR THE SUNDAYS AFTER EPI- PHANY.

**“Thou shalt call His Name, JESUS.”—S.  
Matt. i. 21.**

It was not the Blessed Virgin Mother, nor S. Joseph, nor yet the Angel, who gave this Name to the Holy Child.

It was given Him by the Eternal FATHER, Who alone knows the SON, and the end for which He was Incarnate, and the office which He was to perform as man. He might have been called by many names. Isaiah had been inspired to speak of Him as Wonderful, Counsellor, the Prince of Peace, Immanuel; but the Eternal FATHER would have Him called JESUS, which means a “SAVIOUR.” Others, indeed, had been called so before—Joshua especially—but these were only figures of the true—the Only-begotten SON, Who took our nature upon Him, and had His Name from above, was the only JESUS—the SAVIOUR, the Deliverer. But this Name reveals the office which He came to fulfil. It is a Name that concerns me—a Name that relates to my present and everlasting welfare; and I will seek by GOD’s grace to have it revealed to me in all its fulness.

I want a present Deliverer. This my heart assures me every moment. I want to be freed from error and ignorance; from sin, and all affection to sin; from the power of the Tempter, and from the temptations arising from my own thoughts and feelings; and the Key to deliverance from these and all evils, is the Name of JESUS. By invoking that—by binding myself in the SPIRIT to Him Who is called JESUS; by keeping close to Him by faith and love; by hoping always for help from Him; there is no evil, no danger, from which I may not be saved.

But my soul cries out not simply for deliverance. I want to obtain those graces and virtues which shall keep me in a state of salvation, and perfect my salvation; and JESUS is the Name which opens the way to these gifts. JESUS is the spring-head from whence the HOLY GHOST conveys every kind of wisdom, of virtue, of grace, which makes our path clean and pure here; and JESUS is the Light Which goes before us continually to lead us into the Paradise of GOD.

But this Name of JESUS does something more. It presents me with a SAVIOUR Who is Almighty to save, and Who can feel with me in my need of salvation. Were He Man alone, He could not save me; were He GOD alone, He could save me by



His power and mercy; but He would be still, as it were, at a distance from me. Whereas, by being GOD and Man, He saves me by justice and by victory, as well as by power and mercy. He saves me by making satisfaction for me; by getting the victory for me and in me; by making me to partake of His human nature by grace, and through that, of His Divine nature. I can call Him, therefore, my JESUS, and my GOD. I can know Him by union with Him through His Sacraments; and I can lay my hand upon Him as the Days-man between GOD and my soul.

O most true SAVIOUR! I rejoice in that glorious Name which was given Thee, and which Thou bearest still at the Right Hand of GOD. Praise the LORD, O my soul, for the goodness of this Name. Rejoice in the LORD, and joy in the GOD of thy salvation. For He, the LORD GOD, is thy strength; He will make thy feet like harts' feet, and will lead thee to His high places, where thou shalt see Him as He is.

O JESU! Very GOD of Very GOD; Be unto me a strong Rock and House of Defence, that Thou mayest save me!

O JESU! Wisdom of the FATHER! Grant me to seek and to relish the things that are above, that I may taste and see how gracious the LORD is.

O JESU! First-Begotten among many brethren : make me a joint-heir with Thee in Thy FATHER's House.

O JESU! Son of Man! made in the likeness of man, and formed in fashion as a man ; make me by grace partaker of the Divine Nature.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM XCII. *Bonum est confiteri.*

It is a good thing to give [thanks unto the LORD : and to sing praises unto Thy Name, O most Highest ;

To tell of Thy loving-kindness early in the morning : and of Thy truth in the night-season ;

Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the lute : upon a loud instrument, and upon the harp.

For Thou, LORD, hast made me glad through Thy works : and I will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hands.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## MONDAYS IN EPIPHANY.

**“In the Name of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth rise up and walk.”—Acts iii. 6.**

This sacred Name has power over all nature. It has restored the dead to life, cured all manner of sickness and disease, and filled the world with miracles.

Should I be afflicted in body myself, or should I be distressed for those in sickness, I will call upon the Name of the LORD JESUS. I will plead with GOD by that Name: I will offer it to Him in prayer and in the Holy Sacrament: and I will believe that nothing is impossible which is asked in the Name of JESUS.

But if I may hope for bodily help in the Name of JESUS, still more may I hope for spiritual help. If the feet of my soul are lame so that I cannot walk in the path of GOD's commandments, the Name of JESUS can make me to rise up and walk.

The very devils are subject to this Name, and tremble at it. And whenever they trouble us, whether in body or soul, this is the weapon with which to cast them out. Not as if the material word JESUS contains

any virtue or charm, "but His Name, by faith in His Name," has this power.

O Name of JESUS! worthy of all blessing and praise, I will endeavour to know Thy mysterious power by my own experience. In all my temptations I will call upon the Name of JESUS through His sacred Cross and precious Blood. In the stirring of passion and of evil temper, in the assault of impure thoughts and feelings, in provocations from man, and in the assaults of the devil, I will instantly sign myself with the sign of the Cross, and bid the evil thing, or spirit, go from me in the Name of JESUS.

O JESU, my Creator, create in me a new heart, and renew a right spirit within me.

O JESU, Author of my life, may my soul live to Thee; for to me to live is CHRIST, and to die is gain.

O JESU, Physician, Who by Thy stripes didst heal our sicknesses, heal my soul; for I have sinned against Thee.

O JESU, Innocent LAMB led to slaughter, take away the sins of the world; take away mine, the chief of sinners.

O JESU, Good Samaritan, pour into my wounds the wine of penitence, and the oil of loving-kindness.

Eternal FATHER, I should not have the boldness to appear before Thee to implore

either pardon or graces ; but Thy SON has told me, that whatever grace I ask of Thee in His Name Thou wilt grant it me. I offer Thee, therefore, the merits of JESUS CHRIST, and in His Name I ask of Thee first a general pardon of all my sins ; I ask holy perseverance unto death ; I ask above all the gift of Thy holy love, that it may make me always to live according to Thy Divine will. O grant me all these things, and more also, for the Name and sake of JESUS. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CV. *Confitemini Domino.*

O give thanks unto the LORD, and call upon His Name : tell the people, what things He hath done.

O let your songs be of Him, and praise Him : and let your talking be of all His wondrous works.

Rejoice in His Holy Name : let the heart of them rejoice, that seek the LORD.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## TUESDAYS IN EPIPHANY.

“That at the Name of **JESUS** every knee should bow.”—Philip. ii. 10.

It is an ancient law and custom of the Church, that all the faithful testify their veneration for the Holy Name of **JESUS**, by bowing their head whenever they pronounce or hear it. And every grateful lover and adorer of our Crucified Redeemer must be distressed to hear or see that Name treated with indifference or spoken of irreverently. And the reason of our devotion to this Name is not because we call upon **JESUS** alone. We do not separate Him from the **FATHER** and the **HOLY GHOST**. But the Divine Nature of the Blessed **TRINITY** being one, whatever honour is paid to One Person is paid to all Three. Thus the whole **TRINITY** is glorified by adoration to the Name of **JESUS**. But inasmuch as the **SON** became man for us, and is the Mediator between **GOD** and man, it is by His Humanity that we pray to **GOD**, and the Name of **JESUS** pleases **GOD** and deserves His love.

Whenever we religiously pronounce this Name, and call **JESUS** to mind by it, we re-

present to ourselves the humblest, the tenderest, the meekest, the most spotless, holy, and perfect of men ; a Divine Man endowed with all sanctity, all grace, and all virtues. But at the same time we represent to ourselves also This Man as the Almighty God, Who while He sets before us, on one side, the example of His holy life to imitate, gives us, on the other, light, strength, and grace to conform ourselves to it. And hence we can never repeat the holy Name without feelings of love and adoration, and the earnest desire to resemble Him, Who is the Holy of Holies, and the pattern Man.

And if we have Him thus before our eyes, we shall cheerfully embrace all trials for His sake. His Name will be a tower of strength into which we shall run and be safe. And they that know His Name will trust in Him.

O JESU, my LORD and my GOD, I am Thy servant. Own Thou me, O JESU, my King.

O JESU, Who shalt come to judge the quick and the dead ; enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

O GOD, Who hast made the most sweet Name of JESUS a source of joy to Thy faithful people, and a cause of terror to evil spirits ; grant that we who venerate this Holy Name, may in this life obtain comfort,

and in the life to come everlasting happiness; through the Same Thy SON our LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, ever one GOD, world without end. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CVI. 1. *Confitemini Domino.*

O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is gracious : and His mercy endureth for ever.

Who can express the noble acts of the LORD : or shew forth all His praise ?

Blessed are they that alway keep judgment : and do righteousness.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## WEDNESDAYS IN EPIPHANY.

“ Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the LORD JESUS.”—Col. iii. 17.

What Christian but acknowledges that JESUS is his SAVIOUR, his King, his GOD, his Spouse, his Advocate ? What believer



but desires to unite himself to JESUS under all these characters, to consecrate himself to His service, and to depend upon His aid? But to realise all this, JESUS should be in our heart and in our mouth. He should be the beginning, the midst, and the end of all our undertakings. We should put Him as a seal upon our heart, and as a signet upon our arm, and engrave His Name in characters of love upon all our affections. And oh! that I could thus bring JESUS into all my actions. "O Divine JESUS!" cries out a devout servant of GOD, "whatever I do shall be done under Thy patronage, and in Thy Name: if I watch, JESUS shall be before my eyes: if I sleep, I will close my eyes breathing His pure love: if I walk, it shall be in the sweet company of JESUS: if I sit, JESUS shall be at my side: if I study, JESUS shall be my Master: if I write, JESUS shall guide my hand and pen; it shall be my highest pleasure to write His holy Name: if I pray, JESUS shall form and animate my prayers: if I am fatigued, JESUS shall be my rest: if I am sick, JESUS shall be my Physician: if I die, it is in the bosom of JESUS, Who is my life, that I hope to die. JESUS shall be my tomb, and His Name and Cross my epitaph."

My soul, take a lesson from this holy

man, and love JESUS as he loved Him. Then thou shalt have no tediousness in His service, no weariness in thy well-doing, no bitterness in thy conversation. If thou art in sorrow, this Name will be thy comfort. If thou art in dulness, this Name will scatter all clouds, and be a light to thee. It will be honey in thy mouth, music in thy ear, joy in thy heart. It will mark thee for election in the sight of holy angels, and thou shalt wear this Name on thy forehead in glory, as the new name given thee by JESUS.

O CHRIST JESU, in union with that love whereby Thou didst finish the work of our redemption, I offer to Thee all my works and actions, to the greater glory of Thy Name, and my neighbour's salvation and my own.

O good JESU, SON of the Virgin Mary, full of love and mercy; I implore Thee, by that precious Blood which it was Thy will to shed for sinners, wash away my sins, and look Thou upon me in my misery and unworthiness, while I humbly beg forgiveness in this holy Name of JESUS.

O Name of JESUS, precious and strengthening Name. For what is JESUS, but SAVIOUR? Wherefore, O JESUS, for Thy holy Name's sake, be JESUS to me and save me.

O good JESU, own what is Thine in me,  
and what is not Thine wipe away.

O JESU, solace of them that flee to Thee,  
make me one of the number of Thine elect.

O JESU, Son of the Virgin Mary, pour  
into me grace, wisdom, charity, chastity,  
and humility, that I may perfectly love  
Thee, praise Thee, enjoy Thee, serve Thee,  
and glory in Thee; and so may all who with  
me invoke Thy Name of JESUS. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CVI. 3. *Confitemini Domino.*

Remember me, O LORD, according to the  
favour that Thou bearest unto Thy people :  
O visit me with Thy salvation ;

That I may see the felicity of Thy chosen :  
and rejoice in the gladness of Thy people,  
and give thanks with Thine inheritance.

We have sinned with our fathers : we  
have done amiss, and dealt wickedly.

Nevertheless He helped them for His  
Name's sake : that He might make His  
power to be known.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## THURSDAYS IN EPIPHANY.

“ A new Name, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”—Rev. ii. 17.

The Name of JESUS was given to our Blessed LORD at His Circumcision, although it had been announced before His Birth to the Virgin Mary, and afterwards to Joseph. It pleased GOD so to have it, first for the greater glory of His only SON, that in His lowly state He should be exalted, receiving that Name which is above every name,—the SAVIOUR of sinners. Therefore will I give infinite thanks to the Eternal FATHER for thus honouring His SON when for love He humbles Himself; by which He gives me an assured pledge that, if I humble myself, He will also exalt me, and will give me grace to receive and hold fast that thrice blessed Name of JESUS.

Moreover, JESUS received that holy Name at His Circumcision, to set forth that the Name and Office of SAVIOUR was to cost Him the shedding of His Blood: for “without shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins.” And therefore JESUS, taking now the office of a Redeemer, gives in earnest of the price that He is to pay for our ransom, some precious drops of

Blood, foreshowing how He would pay the whole price in His Passion, in which He would shed all His Blood for us.

O Blessed SAVIOUR, the fountain of Thy Blood is also a fountain of living water of grace to us, whereat all who thirst may drink and be refreshed. Let my soul praise Thee for the love which furnished forth this precious fountain at so great a cost of agony, yea, even death itself. O my soul, wilt thou not labour for thine own salvation, seeing what thy SAVIOUR has done for it Himself? If it cost Him His Blood, is it much that it should cost thee labour and toil, suffering and tears? Behold me, O LORD: I would be ready to hear whatsoever Thou wilt, only let the healing of that Thy outpoured Blood be mine. Amen.

O Eternal FATHER, we pray Thee, be mindful of Thy congregation; behold, O LORD, and visit this Thy vine, and perfect that which Thy Right Hand hath planted. Have mercy upon Thy Church, the Bride for whom Thine only-begotten SON did vouchsafe to shed His most precious Blood. So fill her, we beseech Thee, with the beauty of holiness, the riches of grace, and the fulness of Thine inheritance, that she may shine forth worthy of her Divine Master and Spouse, and of the great price of her redemption. Look mercifully upon all

her children, and gather all nations into their number, that all mankind may acknowledge with living faith Thee, the FATHER, and JESUS CHRIST Whom Thou hast sent, in the unity of the HOLY GHOST, one GOD: that all may call upon Thee with steadfast hope, and embrace Thee with perfect charity. Amen.

JESUS, grant me grace to call for help to Thee.

JESUS, grant me grace in every hour of all need to call fervently upon Thy holy Name.

Whom have I to call upon save Thee, O my JESUS, Thou Who hast Thyself said, Call upon Me in the day of trouble, and I will hear thee?

Thou art my sure Rock of defence against every enemy; Thou art my ever-present Grace, able to give me all strength to fight and conquer.

In all sufferings, therefore, in all weakness and temptations, I will confidently call upon Thee. Hear me, O Blessed JESUS, and when Thou hearest, have mercy.

Have mercy upon me, and upon all sinners.

JESUS, grant me grace to call for help to Thee.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CXIII. *Laudate, pueri.*

Praise the LORD, ye servants : O praise the Name of the LORD.

Blessed be the Name of the LORD : from this time forth for evermore.

The LORD's Name is praised : from the rising up of the sun, unto the going down of the same.

The LORD is high above all heathen : and His glory above the heavens.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## FRIDAYS IN EPIPHANY.

"No man can say that JESUS is the LORD, but by the HOLY GHOST."—1 Cor. xii. 3.

None can rightly meditate on, or duly love the Holy Name of JESUS, unless he be guided and enlightened thereto by the HOLY SPIRIT; therefore must I continually ask of Him help to know the greatness of that Name, and ever to hold it in my heart of hearts.

By His guiding light I see that the Name

of JESUS is the sum of all His perfections as GOD ; and of all His graces and virtues as man ; and of all the offices that He does to man as GOD and Man. JESUS—GOD, therefore He is infinitely Good, holy, Omnipotent, and merciful ; and is made unto us “ Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption.” JESUS—Man, therefore He is Mild, Humble, Charitable, Patient, Powerful, Holy, and “ of His fulness have all we received,” and thereby hope we for salvation. Moreover, as JESUS, He is our Master, our Physician, our FATHER, our Judge, our Pastor, our Protector, and our Advocate. So that in JESUS alone we have all things, and therefore I say unto Him, “ My LORD and my GOD, my All.”

O JESUS, mine own LORD, if I be sick, Thou art my health ; if hungry, Thou art my fulness ; if I be poor, Thou art my riches ; if weak, Thou art my strength ; if I be ignorant, Thou art my wisdom ; if I be a sinner, Thou art my atonement, my sanctification, and redemption. O my JESUS, my All, grant that I may love Thee above all things, and that in Thee only I may seek my repose and perfect rest ; for in Thee only is all that I can desire ; with Thee is the fulness of joy ; Thou only art my hope and my life ; to Whom be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.



O Blessed SAVIOUR, Who hast given Thy Blood and Thy life for me, I pray Thee write Thy adorable Name on my heart; so that being always written there by love, I may also have it ever on my lips, invoking it in all my need. If I am tempted, may Thy Name give me strength to resist; if I am depressed, may Thy Name kindle anew my hope; if I am in sorrow, may Thy Name be my loving comfort; if I grow cold and slack, may Thy Name kindle me anew, reminding me of all Thy love. Henceforth be Thy Name my defence, my refuge, my hope, my only consolation, my only love. Thus would I live, and thus would I die, with thy Blessed Name ever in my heart and on my lips.

JESUS, grant me grace to remember my death.

JESUS, grant me grace always to remember my death, and the great account I then must render; that so continually resting in Thee, my soul may depart out of this world protected by Thy grace.

JESUS, through the power of Thy holy Name, defend me in my last hour from all my enemies, and send Thy holy Angels to help me.

JESUS, remember Thy mercy, and in the hour of need be Thou my strength.

Let the remembrance of Thy death make

me ready to die, and the knowledge of Thy Resurrection encourage me to go down into the grave with calm trust and joy.

Have mercy on all sinners, O JESUS, and on me Thy guilty child. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c. c

PSALM CXIII. 5; CXVI. 4, 12, 15.

Who is like unto the LORD our GOD, that hath His dwelling so high : and yet humbleth Himself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth ?

I will receive the cup of salvation : and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I shall find trouble and heaviness, and I will call upon the Name of the LORD : O LORD, I beseech Thee, deliver my soul.

I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the Name of the LORD.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## SATURDAYS IN EPIPHANY.

“Whatsoever ye shall ask the FATHER in My Name, He will give it you.”—1 S. John xvi. 24.

By the power of that ever-blessed Name, we may ask and have. Is it not then a Name of *hope*, since he that prays to the Eternal FATHER in the Name of JESUS, may hope for all he asks? O my GOD, trusting to this promise, in the Name of JESUS I ask of Thee the pardon of my sins, the grace of holy perseverance, and the gift of Thy love. Grant above all, that the remainder of my life may not be spent in displeasing Thee, but only in loving Thee and doing Thy will, as Thou wouldest have me do.

It is a Name of *gladness*, because if the remembrance of past transgressions afflicts us, this Name comforts us, reminding us that the SON of GOD became Man for this purpose, to make Himself our SAVIOUR. My Blessed SAVIOUR, Thou camest down from heaven to seek me, and I, a miserable sinner, have too often turned away from Thee, and despised Thy grace and Thy love. But nevertheless Thou wilt that even

I should be saved, and through Thy Blessed Name I will come unto the FATHER for pardon and absolution.

It is a Name of *love*. S. Bernard says that the Name of JESUS is a sign and token of how much GOD has done for love of us, inasmuch as His very Name brings to our remembrance all the sufferings which JESUS has endured for us in His life and at His death. Wherefore a holy man once cried out, "O JESUS, how much hath it cost Thee to be JESUS, that is to say, my SAVIOUR!"

O Holy JESUS, I beseech Thee, do Thou write Thy Name within my heart and on my lips, that so whenever temptation ariseth, I may be strong to resist by invoking Thee: if I am tempted to despair, I may trust in Thy merits; and if I feel that my love to Thee is growing chilly, that Thy holy Name may kindle me anew with the remembrance of Thy great love to me. Let Thy Name be ever my defence, my stronghold, my comfort, my hope, and the clear burning flame that shall ever feed the fire of love in my heart. Teach me ever to call Thee JESUS, and mine only LORD; grant me to live and die with Thy dear Name upon my lips, saying even with my last breath, LORD JESUS, I love Thee, receive Thou my spirit. Amen.

**JESUS**, give me grace to order my life to Thee.

**JESUS**, give me grace heartily to devote every action both of body and soul to Thee, and to the hope of infinite bliss and eternal happiness. For what-else is this world but a school to discipline souls and fit them for the other?

Break my froward spirit, O **JESUS**; make it humble and obedient; grant me grace to depart hence without any clinging to this world, and with a joyful hope of coming to Thee in the next.

Let the memory of Thy Passion make me cheerfully embrace all occasions of suffering here for Thy love; whilst my soul breathes after that blissful life, and immortal glory, which Thou hast ordained in heaven for Thy servants.

O **JESUS**, give me grace frequently and attentively to consider that whatsoever I gain, if I lose Thee, all is lost; and whatsoever I lose if I gain Thee, all is gained.

Have mercy upon me, and upon all sinners. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CXVIII. 5, 10; CXIX. 55, 132.

I called upon the LORD in trouble : and the LORD heard me at large.

All nations compassed me round about :  
but in the Name of the LORD will I destroy  
them.

I have thought upon Thy Name, O LORD,  
in the night-season : and have kept Thy  
commandments.

O look Thou upon me, and be merciful  
unto me : as Thou usest to do unto those  
that love Thy Name.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

“ Remember from whence thou art fallen, and  
repent, and do the first works.”—Rev. ii. 5.

Truly by the deserts of original sin the  
natural man is blinded so that he cannot  
see the Beauty of his Creator. Hedged  
around by his own imperfections, he walks  
on in darkness, and driven by the rapid  
stream of his passions, he hurries on to  
everlasting ruin. And such, my soul, wast  
thou. But lo ! thy Redeemer hath laid  
upon thy darkened eyes the ointment of  
His Incarnation, that thou, who couldest  
not see GOD shining in the sweetness of

His Majesty, mightest look upon GOD manifest in the flesh; and looking, mightest acknowledge; and acknowledging, mightest love; and loving, mightest strive with all thy might to attain to His glory. He took upon Him thy flesh, to recall thee to spiritual things. He became partaker of thy changeableness, to make thee partaker of His unchangeableness. He lowered Himself to thy humiliation, to raise thee to His exaltation. He was born of a pure Virgin, to heal the corruption of thy sinful nature. Complain not, then, my soul, of thy fall, as if that were to excuse thy sins and failings. It is true indeed that thy human nature is dust and ashes; and thy Maker remembers whereof thou art made. But He Who made thee, hath re-made thee. Thy heavenly FATHER hath pitied thee; He hath "clothed thee with the garments of salvation," He hath "covered thee with the robe of righteousness." By being "baptized into CHRIST," thou hast "put on CHRIST." In His condescension He has stooped so low to thee, that He willeth thee to be clothed with Himself. He is made unto thee "Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption." Nay, so closely hath He united Himself to thee, that in the unity of the Church He hath willed that thou shouldest be of His own Flesh. For

“we are members of His Body, of His Flesh, and of His Bones.” And He Who is the Eternal SON by nature, hath obtained for us that we should be sons of GOD, and brothers of CHRIST, by grace.

But when thou considerest to what and how great good thou by His grace hast been advanced, meditate too what and how great goods by thine own fault thou hast lost, and into what evils, weighed down by sins, thou hast sunk. Think over these with mourning; mourn over them by renouncing them; renounce them by condemning them; and condemn them by changing thy life for the better. Strive with thyself in thy mind that henceforth not even for a moment, in heart, tongue, or act, thou yield assent to vanity. Be there a daily, ceaseless strife within, that thou keep no truce whatever with thy sins. Spare not thyself, treat not thyself gently, but strictly examine thyself to bring to light the secrets of thy heart, and whatsoever thou findest in thee worthy of blame, pierce through, uproot, cast forth, and bring to nought. Thus, even thus, return, my wandering soul, to thy GOD. For if thou turn away from sin by amendment of life, He will turn aside from thee His vengeance. But if thou forgettest thy sin, and repentest not, He will remember it against thee.

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Miserable man! when I consider the multitude of my grievous offences, I tremble at the dreadful Day of judgment. But trusting in the multitude of Thy compassion, like David, I say to Thee, Have mercy upon me, O GOD, after Thy great Goodness.

Surrounding myself with the robes of shame, instead of the garment of light, woe is me, my soul! let me lament, O SAVIOUR, my ruin, and call to Thee with faith: despise me not, O GOD, but call me back.

Them, O LORD, that were at first exiled from Paradise, through the eating of the fruit, bring in again through Thy Cross and Passion, my GOD and SAVIOUR. By it strengthen us, to accomplish with fitting purity, the coming Fast, and to adore the Divine Resurrection, the Pascha of salvation.

Our FATHER, &c.

LORD, have mercy.

CHRIST, have mercy.

LORD, have mercy.

That I may learn in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may know both how to be abased, and how to abound;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may do all things through CHRIST Which strengtheneth me;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may set my affections on things above, not on things on the earth ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may mortify my members, and that no corrupt communication may proceed out of my mouth ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may put off the old man, and put on the new ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may be kind and humble, meek and long-suffering ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may have fervent charity, which is the bond of perfectness ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That the peace of GOD may rule in my heart ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That the Word of CHRIST may dwell in me richly in all wisdom ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may do all things in the Name of JESUS, giving thanks to GOD and the FATHER by Him ;

Grant this, O LORD.

That I may walk in the SPIRIT ;

Grant this, O LORD.

And that I may glory only in the Cross of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world ;

Grant this, O LORD.

Thanks be to GOD, which giveth us the victory, through our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

PSALM III. *Domine, quid multiplicati ?*

LORD, how are they increased that trouble me : many are they that rise against me.

Many one there be that say of my soul : There is no help for him in his GOD.

But Thou, O LORD, art my defender : Thou art my worship, and the lifter up of my head.

I did call upon the LORD with my voice : and He heard me out of His holy hill.

I laid me down and slept, and rose up again : for the LORD sustained me.

I will not be afraid for ten thousands of the people : that have set themselves against me round about.

Up, LORD, and help me, O my GOD : for Thou smitest all mine enemies upon the cheek-bone ; Thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

Salvation belongeth unto the LORD : and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## MONDAYS BETWEEN SEPTUAGESIMA AND LENT.

### AN ACT OF COMPUNCTION AND HATRED AGAINST SIN.

“Eschew evil and do good : seek peace and ensue it.”—Ps. xxxiv. 14.

*Contrition consists in the hearty detestation of all the sins we have committed, chiefly as having offended God ; with a firm purpose of confessing them, and of sinning no more ; together with the hope of pardon.*

1. O my GOD and my mercy ! with true contrition I bend the knees of my heart, and with the deepest grief of mind humbly accuse myself, and before Thy Divine Majesty acknowledge my fault, confessing all my sins and all the abominations which I have committed in the whole course of my life, by pride, by avarice, by sensuality, by envy, by gluttony, by anger, by sloth, and by all the wickednesses which flow from them ; for, to my shame, I have been too much inclined and poured out among them. I most earnestly repent and grieve that I have sinned, not out of love to the reward promised to the righteous, of which I am not worthy ; neither again out

of fear of the punishments to be inflicted upon the wicked, of which I am every way most worthy; but on this account alone that I have offended Thee, O my GOD! Who, of Thyself, art supremely Good, and above all to be adored; yea, Who art Love itself, Goodness itself, Majesty itself.

2. And for the great love which I owe to Thee, and which I bear towards Thee, O LORD, I hate, detest, and abominate sin, self-love, the inordinate love of the creature, and all else which might hinder me from being joined and united to Thee by the holy love of Thee. Whereinsoever either in thought, word, or deed, whether through frailty, ignorance, or wilfulness, I have sinned against Thee, my GOD, against my neighbour, or myself; in whatsoever way, with the whole affections of my heart I confess it to be my fault, my most grievous fault. It repenteth me that I have sinned; and I mourn that at this hour I do not feel so great hatred of sin, nor have such deep grief, nor so ardent a desire to bewail the past, nor so firm a purpose to eschew all future sins, as I wish and ought to have, that it might answer to these my so great abominations.

3. Therefore I beseech Thee, my GOD, accept that infinite hatred wherewith Thou Thyself hatest sin, to make up that which I ought to have; and in the place of that

grief wherein I am lacking, I offer to Thee, O most merciful FATHER, the sorrows of JESUS CHRIST, Thy SON, my Redeemer, as well as the Sacrifice of His spotless Life, and that holy fervour and zeal which drew Him to that most ignominious and most bitter Death, in order that He might destroy sin.

4. Ah, JESU! my most compassionate SAVIOUR! I fall down before the feet of Thy mercies, beseeching Thee by that love which drew Thee down from heaven to the Virgin's womb, that Thou wouldest apply to me the merits of Thy most bitter Passion, and of that most precious Blood which Thou didst shed for sinners, of whom I am chief; and thus supply all that is lacking in me, and forgive me all my faults, negligences, and ingratitude.

Grant, I beseech Thee, that all these things may henceforward be far from me; and although, through the frailty of my nature, I can never be wholly free from sin, yet, O Infinite Goodness, grant me at least this grace, that I may never sin mortally. This is indeed what Thou Thyself willest, desirest, askest for us, and commandest; give what Thou commandest, and command what Thou wilt. Cause, O LORD, that from henceforth, in the stead of those vices, holy virtues of every kind may be engraven

in my soul ; and all this to Thy glory and praise, now and ever, and through endless ages. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CII. 1, 2, 4, 12. *Domine, exaudi.*

Hear my prayer, O LORD : and let my crying come unto Thee.

Hide not Thy face from me in the time of my trouble : incline Thine ear unto me when I call ; O hear me, and that right soon.

My heart is smitten down and withered like grass : so that I forget to eat my bread.

But Thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever : and Thy remembrance throughout all generations.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## TUESDAYS BETWEEN SEPTUAGESIMA AND LENT.

### AN ACT OF GOOD RESOLVE.

“ I have sworn, and am stedfastly purposed to keep Thy righteous judgments.”—Ps. cxix. 106.

O most mighty GOD, I know, by the light of Thy grace, how greatly I am bound to do good works, and to follow after virtue ; to

disincline from evil, and to flee sin ; therefore now, wholly distrusting self, and wholly trusting to and leaning on Thy holy grace, I purpose, and with the whole power of my free will, with most entire and deliberate consent, I resolve, never more to commit sin ; or to attempt to do, say, or think anything that is contrary to Thy good pleasure ; but to flee as a serpent all occasions of sin, and whatever is displeasing to Thee.

And if at any time it happen—O may it never be!—that I should do or leave undone anything contrary to Thy Will, I now protest beforehand, that whatever it may be, it shall not be with my own will and mind, but from some malicious suggestion and sudden impulse, contrary to this my firm resolve. But since I can do nothing good of myself, do Thou, O LORD, grant that I may abide stedfast in this purpose ; and that allowing nothing evil to creep over me, I may by the aid of Thy grace be fully master of all the desires and motions of my heart.

I further resolve, for the future, to keep fully and completely all Thy Divine precepts, and the promises and vows which I made to Thee in Baptism, or at any other time ; I will endeavour also, as far as I may, by the help of Thy grace, to imitate Thy most holy Life, and to attain the habit



of all those virtues which are most pleasing to Thee: in all things to perform Thy most righteous Will, and in all things to hold down my own, which is bent to evil; subjecting it to my superiors and others, out of love to Thee; and endeavouring to walk in the way of perfection, by the help of all those means, which Thou, my Master, hast in Thy holy Gospel pointed out both by word and example.

Help me, therefore, O LORD; for without Thy special aid I am unable to follow out or to fulfil these my good resolves; give unto me a lively faith, and a strong and stedfast mind; that as Thou, of Thine own Nature, canst not sin, - so too I, by Thy grace, may be incapable of it.

Finally, I beseech Thee, that Thou wouldest deign by Thy judgment to accept and to approve of this declaration of my will; that all things may be done to Thy honour and glory, to the salvation of my soul, the good of my neighbour, and agreeably to Thy most holy will, and to this end I give up myself to GOD the FATHER, GOD the SON, and GOD the HOLY GHOST. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CXVIII. 14, 18, 28.

The LORD is my Strength and my Song:  
and is become my Salvation.

The LORD hath chastened and corrected me : but He hath not given me over unto death.

Open me the gates of righteousness : that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the LORD.

Thou art my GOD, and I will thank Thee : Thou art my GOD, and I will praise Thee.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.  
As it was in the beginning, &c.

## WEDNESDAYS BETWEEN SEPTUAGESIMA AND LENT.

### AN EXERCISE OF TRUST.

“ In Thee, O LORD, have I trusted : let me never be confounded.”

Behold, O GOD our Defender, and be Thou my stay and my refuge ; for I believe in Thee, O LORD, and I hope in Thee, and with my whole heart I desire to love Thee. O my GOD, be not Thou far from me ; my GOD, look upon me and help me. Lo ! I, the purchase of Thy Blood, am standing in a slippery place, and surrounded on all sides

with snares and pits for my soul. Oh ! draw me forth with the cords of Thy love !

O give me wings like a dove, that I may flee unto Thee ; and that, by Thy grace, I may follow Thee, my Shepherd, and cleave unto Thee with my whole heart.

This Thy servant is left unto Thee, O JESU ! O FATHER of mercies, without Whom I can do nothing, I beseech Thee be Thou a Guardian and Helper to me, and leave me not comfortless ; for Thou art my GOD, my only Hope, my Protector, the Horn also of my salvation and my refuge. Amen.

#### A PRAYER TO JESUS.

O LORD, I have destroyed myself, but in Thee is my help. To Thee, O most Bounteous LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who art the Fountain of Love, to Thee do I turn. By the power of Thy Godhead, whereby, one GOD with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, Thou didst make all things out of nothing, I confess that I was created ; and by Thine Incarnation, which in Thine own proper Person, yet with the co-operation of the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, Thou didst take upon Thee, I know that I have been re-made and renewed : wherefore I pray Thy most sweet Mercy ;

By Thy holy Incarnation, Nativity, and Circumcision, have mercy upon my soul ;

By Thy Holy Infancy, Thy Youth,  
and Baptism ;

By Thy Fasting, Hunger, and Wea-  
riness ;

By Thy miracles, whereby, though  
Thou wast very Man, yet Thou wast  
recognised as very GOD ;

By Thy Scourgings, Spittings, and  
Blows, which for us Thou didst re-  
ceive ;

By Thy Cross, and the Death which  
on that Cross Thou didst suffer, that  
Thou mightest redeem us from death ;

Have mercy upon me, Jesu.

I confess before Thee, O LORD, mine iniquities, and how I have fallen back from Thee to empty and hurtful things. But to whom shall I go, but to Thee, Who art the Restorer and Redeemer of sinners ? Look, O LORD, upon me, and deliver me. Plead Thou my cause with them that strive with me ; and fight Thou against them that fight against me. O Helper of the poor, Defender of the fatherless, sustain my endeavours, strengthen my resolutions, and grant me to amend my ways ; and by true penitence and confession, to purge, correct, and cast off mine iniquities ; that by the gift of Thy most indulgent Love, I may be able, after the death of the flesh, to come to Thee, my most Loving LORD, and with all

Thy saints, to sing Thy unspeakable glory,  
in everlasting happiness, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CII. 23; CIII. 8.

He brought down my strength in my  
journey : and shortened my days.

The LORD is full of compassion and  
mercy : long-suffering and of great good-  
ness.

He will not always be chiding : neither  
keepeth He His anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins :  
nor rewarded us according to our wicked-  
ness.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## THURSDAYS BETWEEN SEPTUA- GESIMA AND LENT.

AN EXERCISE FOR THE MORTIFICATION OF  
CURIOSITY.

“ O turn away mine eyes : lest they behold  
vanity.”—*Psalms* cxix. 37.

O LORD JESU CHRIST! in Whom are  
hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and

Knowledge, O that I knew Thee,—that I knew myself; O that I knew Thy Will! For that knowledge alone sufficeth me, by which I may be for ever wise unto salvation, and know Thee, see Thee, and in Thee possess all things; and this the more, and the more perfectly, the less a vain curiosity shall have here distracted me amid diverse things. One thing is needful; and this is life eternal; to know Thee Alone.

Are these things true? Do I believe them with a living faith? Do I live, think, speak, and act before Thee as if I believed them? And do I hope in Thee, O my only Hope? And do I love Thee, O Infinite Goodness, here most intimately present with me?

LORD, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief. In Thee alone do I hope, and I know I shall not be confounded. Vanity of vanities; yea, all things are vanity; and as from love to Thee, I grieve above all things that I have offended Thee, so with my whole heart do I love Thee above all things. And what is there that can yet separate me from Thee? O JESUS! O my Life! O most endearing Charity! O GOD of my heart, and my All! Why, then, O my soul, should I seek to pry into things too deep and too mighty for me? Why should I turn mine eyes unto vanity, and not ra-

ther unto Thee, O JESU, in Whom alone is our salvation? But, alas! the uncultured soil of my heart, through our neglect, brings forth only thorns and briars; my soul, finding no rest in itself, is forced to wander forth abroad; slothful to look into itself, carelessness of self makes it curious as to all besides. And yet all wisdom, knowledge, experience, is vain which profiteth not for eternity. What is it all then but vexation of the spirit, which cannot be satisfied, nor rest in any creature but in Thee Alone, in Whom are all things? O happy soul! to whom Thou Alone art all things, who in Thee seeth all things, and from Thee receiveth, and to Thee directeth all things, O GOD of my heart and my All!

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CXXXI. *Domine, non est.*

LORD, I am not high-minded : I have no proud looks.

I do not exercise myself in great matters : which are too high for me.

But I refrain my soul and keep it low, like as a child that is weaned from his mother : yea, my soul is even as a weaned child.

O Israel, trust in the LORD : from this time forth for evermore.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## FRIDAYS BETWEEN SEPTUAGESIMA AND LENT.

### A PRAYER TO CHRIST, WITH REMEMBRANCE OF HIS BENEFITS.

“ Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was Incarnate by the HOLY GHOST of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.”

O Thou, Who wast born of a Virgin Mother, and wrapped in swaddling clothes : wrap Thou my soul in the robes of Thy Mercy.

O Thou, Who wast worshipped in the manger : make me faithfully to worship Thee, now sitting in Heaven.

O Thou, Who didst suffer Thy Flesh to be circumcised : circumcise my heart from all sin.

O Thou, Who wast subject unto Thy parents in Thy Childhood : make me subject

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to Thee, and to all to whom Thy disposal has subjected me.

O Thou, Who wast baptized by John, and in my infancy didst baptize me : cleanse me by confession and penitence, from all my pollutions.

O Thou, Who didst work miracles, wonders, and healings on the bodies and souls of men : heal Thou the sickness of my soul.

O Thou, Who didst teach truth, mercy, and righteousness : make Thou my heart to delight in what Thou teachest.

O Thou, Who didst fast for me : make me to abstain from all sin for love of Thee.

O Thou, Who wast hungry for me : make me truly to hunger after Thee, Who art the true Bread.

O Thou, Who wast wearied for me : strengthen Thou and refresh the weariness of my soul.

O Thou, Who didst feed Thine Apostles with Thy Body and Thy Blood : feed Thou my soul with Thy holy Flesh, and satisfy me with Thy sweetness.

O Thou, Who wast delivered up for me : deliver not Thou up my soul to its enemies.

O Thou, Who wast bound for me : loosen Thou the bonds of my sins.

O Thou, Who wast mocked for me : deliver me from the mockings of devils.

O most sweet LORD, Who alone of men wast without sin, and yet scourged for sinners : deliver me from the scourges which my sins have deserved.

O most merciful LORD, Who wast crowned with thorns for my sake : take away from me the thorns of my unsubdued passions.

O most kind LORD, Who didst bear Thy Cross upon Thy Holy Shoulders : make me to follow Thee, and to bear my cross after Thee.

O Thou, Who wast lifted up that Thou mightest draw all men unto Thee : draw Thou me unto Thee.

O all pitying LORD, Who didst suffer Thy Body to be wounded by the nails and with the spear : hide me in Thy Wounds.

O Good Shepherd, Who didst lay down Thy life for Thy sheep : suffer not my sinful soul to perish and die.

O most mighty LORD, Who after Thou hadst conquered death, didst gladden Thy disciples by Thy Presence, and didst stablish their hearts in the faith of Thy holy Resurrection : gladden Thou me by Thy Presence, and strengthen my heart in the hope of rising to eternal life.

Our FATHER, &c.

Blessed and praised for evermore be JESUS, Who hath saved us by His Blood !

PSALM LXXXVIII. 1, 9, 13. *Domine Deus.*

O LORD GOD of my salvation, I have cried day and night before Thee : O let my prayer enter into Thy Presence, incline Thine ear to my calling.

My sight faileth for very trouble : LORD, I have called daily upon Thee, I have stretched forth my hands unto Thee.

Unto Thee have I cried, O LORD : and early shall my prayer come before Thee.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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## SATURDAYS BETWEEN SEPTUAGESIMA AND LENT.

“ Love is the fulfilling of the Law.” Rom. xiii. 10.

### AN EXERCISE OF CHARITY.

#### 1. *Towards God.*

O Charity, O my GOD, give me understanding, and I shall learn Thy Commandments ; whether Thou speakest by epistle or by Thy creatures unto my heart. For whatsoever I learn to my salvation, Thou,

ever most present with me, teachest me with most inward love, O Health and Medicine of my soul! And how great is the love wherewith Thou teachest me, who am nothing before Thee! Dost Thou need my goods, that Thou shouldst with such free love present me with so many good things, and with Thy Charity?

For Thou, O Eternal FATHER, so lovedst the world as to give Thine Only Begotten SON. So didst Thou love me, O most merciful JESU, SON of GOD, as to give Thy life unto death for me. And can Thy commands and Thy counsels be grievous unto me? I will love Thee, then, O GOD, my Strength! O how good is it for me to hold me fast by Thee!

What then shall be able to separate me from Thy Charity? Can tribulation, or distress, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or persecution, or the sword? For Thy love is strong as death; and many waters, so I trust, shall not be able to quench Thy Charity; that fire, which Thou camest to send on the earth, and which Thou wilt earnestly to be enkindled. Amen.

## 2. *Towards Man.*

O Charity, my GOD, I believe in Thee, and I hope in Thee, and with my whole

heart I love Thee, and my neighbour for Thy sake. For by this shall all men know that we are Thy disciples, if we have love one towards another.

This Thou saidst is a commandment like unto the greatest. For he that loveth his neighbour hath truly fulfilled the law; and he that loveth not abideth in death. If then we ought, above all things, constantly to have mutual charity among ourselves, I will from henceforth, even for ever, to cherish this virtue above all things, and to be Thy disciple; to judge no one; to sadden no one by word or deed; but to solace, to help, to be forward to honour all men, to love all men in Thee, and to do unto all men, even to the lowest, what I would do to Thee, O most loving JESU!

For Thou hast said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you." Since therefore Thou didst deign to lay down Thy life for us, yea, for me, so ought I to desire not only to give up wealth or convenience, but, if necessary, to lay down my life also for my brethren.

But give me, O JESU! to love, not in word and in tongue, but in deed and in truth; that whatsoever I would that men should do unto me, I may do unto them; or rather, unto Thee; for with what measure

I mete, Thou wilt measure to me again, and wilt give Thyself to me, Who art my Hope, my Refuge, and my Salvation. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

### PSALM XCIV. 12.

Blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, O LORD : and teachest him in Thy Law.

That Thou mayest give him patience in time of adversity.

For the LORD will not fail His people : neither will He forsake His inheritance ;

Until righteousness turn again unto judgment : all such as are true in heart shall follow it.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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### SEXAGESIMA.

“ We have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities : but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”—Heb. iv. 15.

One great and blessed truth contained in the mystery of the Incarnation is the sym-

pathy of CHRIST : that as He is truly Man, so He truly and really partakes of our infirmities, and has a fellow-feeling of them with us. His being "tempted" includes all trials of soul and body, such as sorrow, pain, anguish, as well as what we commonly call temptation. His sympathy with penitents is perfect, because He is sinless : its perfection is the consequence of His perfect holiness. "Such an High Priest becomes us," that is, was required by our spiritual necessities, "Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners." Because we are sinners, we need One Who is without sin to sympathise with us. None hate sin but those who are holy, and that in the measure of their holiness ; and therefore in the Person of our Blessed LORD there must exist the two great conditions of perfect sympathy : first, He has suffered all the sorrows and miseries which are consequent upon sin, and distinct from it ; next, He has, because of His perfect holiness, a perfect hatred of evil. And these properties of His human nature unite themselves to the pity, omniscience, and love, which are the perfections of His Divine Nature.

Thus our LORD, by the experience of humiliation in our flesh, has learned to sympathise with us. Not in any motion of evil in

the affections and thoughts of the heart, or in any inclination of the will. Upon all such as are destroying themselves by wilful sin, He looks down with a divine pity; but they have withdrawn themselves from the range of His sympathy. This can only be with those who are in sorrow under sin; that is, with penitents. It is in the suffering of those that would be cleansed and made holy that He partakes.

O Holy and Gracious High Priest, give me so deep a penitence, so hearty a sorrow for sin, that I may indeed have a claim upon Thy sympathy, and, resting in it, may be forgiven and comforted. None can know as Thou knowest my feebleness and frailty, remember Thou that I am but dust; Thou Who hast said that the Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh weak, give more energy and firmness to my will, more strength and resolution to the flesh. Look upon my inward struggles and temptations, and have pity on me.

With all His awful Holiness, there is something that greatly draws us to CHRIST in His tender Love. Though His Eyes "be as a flame of fire," yet is He "meek and lowly of heart," knowing and feeling for all our miseries, and of a truth in Him we shall find rest for our souls.

In this sympathy is true peace, deep con-



solation, calm unspeakable. This will keep our hearts waking, recall us when we wander, refresh us when we are weak. Whatsoever be our outward lot,—whether we be high or low, esteemed or outcast, held in honour or in scorn, this one thing is enough. What more can they desire who have the sympathy of CHRIST? Let us so live as not to forfeit that sympathy. It is ours only so long as we strive and pray to be made like Him. If we turn again to evil, or to the world, we sever ourselves from Him—the dominion of any sinful habit will fearfully estrange us from His Presence. And besides positive sins, love of the world will shut us out from His sympathy altogether. Love of the world casts out the Love of CHRIST. If, in spite of His word and warning, His Life and Cross, we will live on in this fallen world without fear or self-denial, as if it were not fallen; if we will love it, live in it and for it, accept its flatteries and favours, then we must die with it. The follies, excitements, false happiness of the world, bring bitter looking back, burning consciousness of inconsistency and falling away; and all these hide His Presence from our souls. With them He has no sympathy: but only with the humble, bruised, and contrite; with them that forsake all, that they may find Him, and follow

Him whithersoever He goeth; in darkness and in light, in life and in death, counting all things loss, that they may "win CHRIST, and be found of Him," in the morning of the Resurrection.

O Merciful High Priest, Thou art ever touched with the feeling of our infirmities,

Look upon mine, many and grievous, and heal me.

O suffering JESUS, Who didst cry aloud to Thy FATHER, "My GOD, My GOD, look upon Me,"

Look upon me, and turn all my pains to peace and healing.

O JESUS, Who madest Thyself as a worm and no man, a very scorn of men, and the outcast of the people,

Look upon me, and turn all my trials and humiliations to my good, and heal me.

O Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, visit and relieve me.

O SAVIOUR, Who hast borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,

Bear mine, even mine, O LORD.

O SAVIOUR, full of heaviness,

Lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death.

O LORD my GOD, Thou art to me whatsoever is good,—who am I that I should dare speak to Thee? I am Thy poorest,

meanest servant; yet do Thou remember me, O LORD, because I am nothing, I have nothing, and I can do nothing. Thou alone art Good, Just, and Holy; Thou canst do all things, Thou accomplishest all things, Thou fillest all things, only the sinner Thou leavest empty. Remember Thy mercies, and fill my heart with Thy Grace; Thou wilt not that Thy works should be void and in vain. How can I bear up in this miserable life, unless Thou strengthen me with Thy mercy and grace? Turn not Thy Face away from me; delay not Thy visitation; withdraw not Thy consolation, lest my soul become as a dry and thirsty land for lack of Thee. Teach me, O LORD, to do Thy Will; teach me to live worthily and humbly in Thy Sight; for Thou art my Wisdom, Thou alone dost know me, and feel with and for me; leave me not, O GOD of my salvation. Amen.

O JESU, Most Gracious SAVIOUR, Who camest into the world to save sinners; Who Thyself barest our griefs, and carriedst our sorrows, Thyself tempted in all things like as we are, yet without sin, that Thou mightest be touched with the feeling of our temptations; Thou seest how infirm and weak we are, and that of ourselves we cannot resist the evil or pursue the good, so inclined to evil are the thoughts and ima-

ginations of our hearts. O SAVIOUR, save Thou us; give strength, bring help; Thy grace is all-powerful, we can do all in Thee, if Thou do but strengthen us. Our hearts fail before temptation, but Thou, O Blessed SAVIOUR, knowest all our trials, and with the temptation Thou hast promised us a way to escape. Make us ready and strong to drink of Thy Cup, doubting not, but stedfastly believing, that Thou art both able and willing to turn all things to good for those that love Thee. Lo, we are in Thy Hand; do with us as Thou wilt. If Thou wilt, Thou canst make us whole. Heal us, O LORD, and we shall be healed. Save us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM XCI. *Qui habitat.*

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the Most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say unto the LORD, Thou art my Hope, and my strong Hold: my GOD, in Him will I trust.

For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter: and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall defend thee under His wings, and thou shalt be safe under His feathers:

His faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day.

For the pestilence that walketh in darkness: nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh thee.

Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold: and see the reward of the ungodly.

For Thou, LORD, art my hope: Thou hast set Thine house of defence very high.

There shall no evil happen unto thee: neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For He shall give His angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him up, because he hath known My Name.

He shall call upon Me, and I will hear him: yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.

With long life will I satisfy him : and  
show him My salvation.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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### QUINQUAGESIMA.

“ And now abideth Faith, Hope, and Charity, these three ;—but the greatest of these is Charity.”—1 Cor. xiii. 13.

Hope increases charity, and charity increases hope. Hope in the Divine goodness undoubtedly gives an increase to our love of JESUS CHRIST ;—in the very moment we hope to receive some benefit from a person, we also begin to love him. On this account our LORD forbids us to put our trust in creatures. “ Cursed be he that trusteth in man.” Let us beware of resting too much upon man, for when GOD beholds us leaning overmuch upon earthly consolations, He Himself withdraws from us ; but the more we trust in Him, the more we shall advance in His holy love—“ I have run the way of Thy Commandments, and Thou dost enlarge my heart.” O how rapidly does that soul advance in

perfection, who has her heart filled with confidence in GOD! She flies rather than runs, for by making GOD the foundation of all her hope, she flings aside her own weakness, and borrows the strength of GOD Himself, which is communicated to all who place their confidence in Him. "They that hope in the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." The eagle is the bird that soars nearest the sun; in like manner, the soul that has GOD for her trust becomes detached from the earth, and more and more united to GOD by love.

And as hope increases love, so does love help to increase hope; for charity makes us the adopted sons of GOD. In the natural order we are the work of His Hands; but in the supernatural order we are made sons of GOD, and partakers of the Divine Nature, through the merits of JESUS CHRIST, as S. Peter writes, "That by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature." And if charity makes us the sons of GOD, it consequently makes us heirs of Heaven, as S. Paul says, "And if children, then heirs." Now a son claims the right of abiding under his father's roof; an heir is entitled to his father's property; and thus charity increases the hope of Paradise: so that the souls that

love GOD cry out incessantly, "Thy Kingdom come."

The greatest of all is Charity—love, pure, holy, unfeigned—love to men; above all, love of GOD; and a perfect, absorbing love of Him is the fulness of joy promised to the faithful in Paradise. Hence the soul can never enjoy perfect repose on earth; because it is only in Heaven that she can obtain perfect union with GOD. It is true that those who love JESUS CHRIST fervently find peace in wholly conforming their wills to the Will of GOD; but they cannot in this life find complete repose; this is only obtained when our last end is attained; that is, when we see GOD face to face, and are fulfilled with His Divine Love; and until the soul reaches this end, she is unsatisfied, and groaning within herself, cries out, "I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul."

O my Eternal GOD, I offer Thee my whole heart; but what sort of heart, O GOD, is it that I offer unto Thee? A heart that Thou hast made to love Thee, but which has too often rebelled against Thee? For all such rebellion I heartily repent, and exceedingly grieve; I desire to obey Thee henceforth in all things, and to love Thee with every faculty of my soul. I love Thee, O JESUS, True and Only Lover of my soul,



for there is none save Thee that has died for me. This shall be my life, to love Thee always, O my Sovereign Good. O then confirm my faith, increase and perfect my hope, and above all, O Blessed LORD, consume my whole heart with the most fervent love of Thee. Even so, LORD JESUS. Amen.

O Blessed JESUS, Who hast said, If ye love Me, keep My Commandments,

Guide and teach us that we keep those Thy Commandments.

O Blessed JESUS, Who dost promise that whoso loveth Thee, shall be loved of Thy FATHER,

May we attain to that Love.

O Blessed JESUS, Who hast promised to manifest Thyself to those who love Thee,

Manifest Thyself unto us.

O Blessed JESUS, Who hast promised to make Thine abode with them that love Thee,

Come and dwell within our hearts.

O Blessed JESUS, Who hast said, By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another,

Fill our hearts with love towards all men.

O Blessed JESUS, Who didst teach Thy chosen friend who lay in Thy Bosom, that love is of GOD,

Evermore fill us with holy love.

O GOD, Who Thyself art Love, draw us into the burning fire of Thy Love, and consume us therein, that we be wholly Thine for ever. Amen.

O JESUS, the True Light that lightenest every one that cometh into the world, grant, I beseech Thee, by the inestimable merits of Thy Passion and Death, that the darkness of heresies and errors being dispersed, all men may embrace the light of Thy Truth, and be brought into the bosom of Thy Church, fulfilling Thine own most holy prayer, that Thy servants may be one even as Thou and Thy FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT are One. O Thou Good Shepherd, Who didst lay down Thy life for Thy sheep, protect Thy flock, strengthen and purify it. Grant that all may have one fold and one Shepherd, even Thee, Blessed JESUS. Loosen the bands of iniquity, put away all strife and bitterness, and fill us all with perfect charity, Thou Who art Love itself, even Thou our only SAVIOUR and Redeemer. Amen.

O Most Gracious and Eternal GOD, and Loving FATHER, Who hast poured out Thy mercies upon us, and sent the SON of Thy Love unto us to die for love, and to make us dwell in love; do Thou fill my heart with a holy charity towards Thee, and all the world. LORD, I forgive all that have

ever offended me, and beg that both they and I may enter into the possession of Thy mercies, and receive a gracious pardon from the same fountain of grace : do Thou forgive me all acts of scandal whereby I have ever provoked, tempted, or disturbed anyone. LORD, let me never be of those who disturb the union and peace of Thy Church, and forgive all who do. Make me to be in charity with all men, and to be ready to give my life for the souls of my brethren ; preserve me in the unity of Thy Holy Church, and do unto Thy servant as Thou usest to do unto those that love Thy Name : let Thy truth comfort me, Thy staff support me, Thy grace sanctify me, Thy goodness pardon all my sins, Thy angels guide me safely in this land of the shadow of death, and Thy Most HOLY SPIRIT lead me forth into the Land of Righteousness, for Thy Name's sake, which is so comfortable, and for JESUS CHRIST His sake, our dearest LORD and Gracious SAVIOUR. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM XLI. *Beatus qui intelligit.*

Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy : the LORD shall deliver him in the time of trouble.

The LORD preserve him, and keep him

alive, that he may be blessed upon earth : and deliver not Thou him into the will of his enemies.

The LORD comfort him, when he lieth sick upon his bed : make Thou all his bed in his sickness.

I said, LORD, be merciful unto me : heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

Mine enemies speak evil of me : when shall he die, and his name perish ?

And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity : and his heart conceiveth falsehood within himself, and when he cometh forth, he telleth it.

All mine enemies whisper together against me : even against me do they imagine this evil.

Let the sentence of guiltiness proceed against him : and now that he lieth, let him rise up no more.

Yea, even mine own familiar friend whom I trusted : who did also eat of my bread, hath laid great wait for me.

But be Thou merciful unto me, O LORD : raise Thou me up again, and I shall reward them.

By this I know Thou favourest me : that mine enemy doth not triumph against me.

And when I am in my health, Thou upholdest me : and shalt set me before Thy Face for ever.

Blessed be the LORD GOD of Israel :  
world without end. Amen.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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### SHROVE TUESDAY.

“ Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.”—Lam. iii. 40.

In this week of Quinquagesima, especially on this day, all the faithful in ancient times made confession of their sins, and they who had fallen under the strict discipline of the Church were put to open penance. Shrove-tide is the preparation for Lent, and, as its very name implies, it is the time of confession.

But this ancient discipline no longer exists. What then is the sinful soul to do? the soul that feels its wounds and longs for its bands to be loosed, and its spirit to be renewed,—is there for such no balm in Gilead? no Physician there? Blessed be GOD—“the Blood of JESUS CHRIST cleanseth from all sin.” And he that cannot quiet his own conscience by self-examination, by bewailing and confessing his sins to GOD, with full purpose of amendment of life, and

by applying to JESUS through the general means of His Church, is invited to come to Him through His Priests, that, by opening his grief to them also in confession, he may receive by their ministry the benefits of absolution. O blessed ordinance of restoration for all contrite hearts, by the power of those words, "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them." And O salutary correction when it is necessary to apply that discipline, "whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained."

Now then, my soul, as thou enterest upon this season of repentance, "prepare to meet thy God." And remember how thou art warned by the Spirit of JESUS, and by the practice of His Church, to pass these forty days in sorrow and humiliation, in reading GOD's holy Word, and in public prayer,—and to nourish thy spiritual life by devotion, by alms-deeds, by fasting, by watching, by confession, by attendance at the Holy Sacrifice and Sacrament of the Altar, by meditation, by forgiveness of others, by making restitution and satisfaction, and by doing all things in charity, that thou mayest adorn the doctrine of GOD thy SAVIOUR; and be so transformed by the renewing of thy mind, that thou mayest "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of GOD."

O most true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that "CHRIST JESUS came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." O think upon Thy servant, Blessed LORD, as concerning Thy Word, wherein Thou hast caused me to put my trust: take back the prodigal, the fugitive from Thy Presence; embrace him at length, returning to his most loving FATHER, with the Arms of Love. O forgive Thy penitent all his sins, and blot out all his transgressions, and give him peace through Thy merits and mediation. Amen.

*A Prayer for Christ's Church in England.*

That this Church and nation may truly turn to Thee ;

That we may remember from whence we are fallen, and repent and do the first works;

That we may hear what the SPIRIT saith unto the Churches;

That we may be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die;

That we may keep Thy Word, and not deny Thy Name;

That we may be clothed with white raiment, and that the shame of our nakedness do not appear ;

Help us, O LORD.

That it may please Thee to rebuke  
and chasten us ;

That Thou mayest give us grace to  
confess our sins, and to lay open our  
wounds ;

That Thy absolving Word may have  
power amongst us ;

That we may have the dispositions of  
godly sorrow and compunction ;

That we may bring forth fruits meet  
for repentance ;

That all our works may be done in  
charity ;

That Thou mayest anoint our eyes  
with eye-salve, that we may see ;

From pride and avarice ;

From the too great love of earthly  
comforts ;

From lukewarmness and indiffe-  
rence ;

From spiritual blindness ;

From the peril of knowing, and not  
doing the things of the Gospel ;

From the secret desire for pomp and  
vanity ;

From indulging our appetite ;

From all intemperance ;

O GOD, make speed to save us.

O LORD, make haste to help us.

O LORD, be gracious unto Thy servant,  
And in the midst of judgment remember  
mercy.

Grant this, O LORD.

Good LORD, deliver us.



O LORD, revive Thy work in the midst of years,

And restore the ancient paths.

I commend to Thee, O LORD, all poor sinners, that Thou mayest convert and heal them; I commend to Thee all who are in error, that Thou mayest bring them to Thy Truth; I commend to Thee all troubled souls, who are hindered from seeking Thee in Thy appointed means of grace, that Thou mayest give them the things they need, and accept in them the will for the deed; I commend to Thee the prayers of all who long for unity in Thy Church, and beseech Thee to accomplish them in Thy good time.

O Holy FATHER, look upon the Face of Thy CHRIST, and grant us all the grace to know Thee, to love Thee, and to praise Thee, together with Thy beloved SON and the HOLY SPIRIT, now and for ever. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

The LORD bless us, and keep us; the LORD lift up the light of His countenance upon us, and give us peace now and for evermore. Amen.

PSALM LVIII. *Si vere utique.*

Are your minds set upon righteousness,  
O ye congregation: and do ye judge the  
thing that is right, O ye sons of men?

Yea, ye imagine mischief in your heart upon the earth : and your hands deal with wickedness.

The ungodly are froward, even from their mother's womb : as soon as they are born, they go astray, and speak lies.

They are as venomous as the poison of a serpent : even like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ears ;

Which refuseth to hear the voice of the charmer : charm he never so wisely.

Break their teeth, O GOD, in their mouths ; smite the jaw-bones of the lions, O LORD : let them fall away like water that runneth apace, and when they shoot their arrows let them be rooted out.

Let them consume away like a snail, and be like the untimely fruit of a woman : and let them not see the sun.

Or ever your pots be made hot with thorns : so let indignation vex him, even as a thing that is raw.

The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance : he shall wash his footsteps in the blood of the ungodly.

So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous : doubtless there is a GOD that judgeth the earth.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

## APPENDIX.

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### A MEDITATION WHICH MAY BE USED DURING ADVENT.

*The same may serve also for the last day of  
the Year.*

“Man goeth to his long home.”—Eccles. xii. 5.

Even JESUS was “a stranger upon the earth.” He was born in an Inn. He was compelled to fly into Egypt. And though He tarried for some years at the house in Nazareth with His holy Mother, and the saintly Joseph, yet He had no home in this world, not even in His “FATHER’S House,” as He called the Temple at Jerusalem. All the days of His appointed time He waited; till having endured the Cross, and passed through the grave and gate of death, He went up in His risen Glory, to

"sit down at the Right Hand of the throne of GOD." And I, as a follower of JESUS, and looking unto Him as the Author and Finisher of my faith, must endeavour to run with patience the race that is set before me, till I also, having passed through the grave and gate of death, shall rise to a joyful resurrection, and enter into the true home, "the long home" of eternity. "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come." And "we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of GOD, an house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

Remember then, my soul, that thou art but a passenger in this world; do not place thy affections on what thou seest, look and pass on, and seek for thyself a good home, where thou mayest dwell for ever.

Oh beautiful House in Heaven. Oh City of the Saints! He that enters into thy courts shall have nothing more to desire. He will live in continual joy. Oh friends of my youth, and of my later years, who are already at home in Paradise, when shall I be once more united with you, and rejoice with you for all eternity?

But in this going to his long home, man is placed between two things—he must choose or lose the everlasting reward. He

is not carried to Heaven by force; he goes to it of his own accord, through Divine grace. GOD wishes all men to be saved; but He will not *compel* us to be saved. And the choice is not between a house more or less convenient, but between an abode full of every delight amidst the friends of GOD, or a pit full of every torment with the company of devils and of the wicked. And for how long? Not for twenty or forty years; but for all eternity. Choose then, my soul, and be wise in thy choice.

But, ah! foolish and blind that I have been. I have known long since of my "long home," and yet I have been planting and building here as if this home were the enduring one. But when I look on all the works that my hands have wrought, and on all the labour that I have laboured to do for my own interest, and apart from GOD, behold it is all vanity and vexation of spirit, and there is no profit under the sun.

And, O ye past and bygone years, what witnesses ye are of my soul's waste, and of my forgetfulness of GOD. But "I believe in the life everlasting." I believe that after this life there is another life which never ends, and in this belief I will rekindle my faith; and with this thought

ever before me, I will adopt every means to secure my salvation. I will frequent the Sacraments and all means of grace. I will reflect and meditate. I will fly dangerous occasions. And if it be necessary to leave the world, I will leave it, because no precautions can be too great to secure eternal salvation. "No security is too great where eternity is at stake."

My GOD, I have deserved to dwell with everlasting burnings, but Thy mercy has waited for me, and given me time to repair the evils I have done. For ever blessed be the Blood of JESUS, which has obtained this mercy for me. Never more, O GOD, never more let me offend Thee, or abuse Thy patience. Never more let me abuse Thy will, and Thy Infinite Goodness. For what dost Thou desire, O my GOD, but my welfare and my salvation? O happy me, if I live during the remainder of my life, and end my life, in loving Thee, and doing Thy will.

O JESUS, obtain for me, through Thy Mediation, the gift of final perseverance, that I may endure to the end in Thy grace and love, and may go to Thy long home!

O most pitiful GOD, I fly to Thee for help, because I know that Thou art ready to be found of them that seek Thee, and

that Thou canst do all things; for with the same Almighty power, wisdom, and goodness wherewith Thou spakest the word and all things were made, with the same readiness Thou canst speak the word, and all things in me which have been deformed shall be reformed. O speak, LORD, for Thy servant heareth. Send into my heart Thy healing, life-giving word; uphold me with Thy free SPIRIT, and restore to me the joy of Thy salvation through JESUS CHRIST, our SAVIOUR and Redeemer. Amen.

O Holy, Blessed, and Glorious TRINITY, Three Persons, and One GOD, FATHER, SON, and HOLY GHOST,

Have mercy upon me a miserable sinner.

Give me repentance and newness of life.

And make me, with all who are dear to me, to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting, in our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Our FATHER, &c.

PSALM CXXXII. *Memento Domine.*

LORD, remember David : and all his trouble.

How he sware unto the LORD : and vowed a vow unto the Almighty GOD of Jacob ;

I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house : nor climb up into my bed ;

I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eyelids to slumber : neither the temples of my head to take any rest ;

Until I find out a place for the temple of the LORD : an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata : and found it in the wood.

We will go into His tabernacle : and fall low on our knees before His footstool.

Arise, O LORD, into Thy resting-place : Thou, and the ark of Thy Strength.

Let Thy Priests be clothed with righteousness : and let Thy Saints sing with joyfulness.

For Thy servant David's sake : turn not away the presence of Thine Anointed.

The LORD hath made a faithful oath unto David : and He shall not shrink from it ;

Of the fruit of thy body : shall I set upon thy seat.

If thy children will keep My covenant, and My testimonies that I shall learn them : their children also shall sit upon thy seat, for evermore.

For the LORD hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for Himself : He hath longed for her.



This shall be My rest for ever : here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

I will bless her victuals with increase : and will satisfy her poor with bread.

I will deck her Priests with health : and her Saints shall rejoice and sing.

There shall I make the horn of David to flourish : I have ordained a lantern for Mine Anointed.

As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame : but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

Glory be to the FATHER, &c.

As it was in the beginning, &c.

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